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UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

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Back 'em Up!

KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

Special Convention Issue

INTERNATIONAL SECY-TREAS. HAROLD J. LANE

Fifth
National
Convention

●

Dec. 4-9
1944

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT DONALD HENDERSON

UCAPAWA-CIO 7 Years Old

AN army travels on its stomach, Frederick the Great once said, and certainly, judging by their plentiful food rations, our American Armed Forces are traveling smoothly on the road to victory. Our Union can be proud of its achievements in bolstering [illegible], and tanks of war with its all-out production of food and tobacco for our brothers in the service.

In its eighth year, UCAPAWA, together with the rest of the nation, faces the supreme crisis in our history. The Fascist enemy has been beaten back into its lair, but the final and greatest blows are yet to be struck in Europe as well as in the Pacific. Ever on the alert, UCAPAWA members continue to work faithfully at their machines, in the canneries and grain plants, in the packing sheds and cotton compresses, in the tobacco plants and dairy factories. We continue to produce the goods for victory and to safeguard and extend the gains of labor on the home front.

Since our last National Convention in October, 1942, UCAPAWA has recorded an increase of 8,366 dues paying members. Some 211 plants have been organized, bringing more than 25,000 new workers under contract. At present UCAPAWA has more than 77,000 workers under contract. Wage increases, union security, improved vacation plans and other benefits have been secured constantly through the machinery of the War Labor Board. Our no-strike record has been kept in every instance.

At our Fifth National Convention delegates from UCAPAWA local unions throughout the country will adopt a far-reaching and effective program to help carry us swiftly through victory and a lasting peace.

We shall intensify our compaign to wipe out substandard wages and to secure a 65c per hour wage minimum through government action. We shall stand behind President Roosevelt's program of 60 million jobs after the war and prosperity for all.

We shall celebrate labor's greatest political victory in the 1944 election and plan to dig our roots deeper into the political life of our country in order to strengthen the fight for our economic demands.

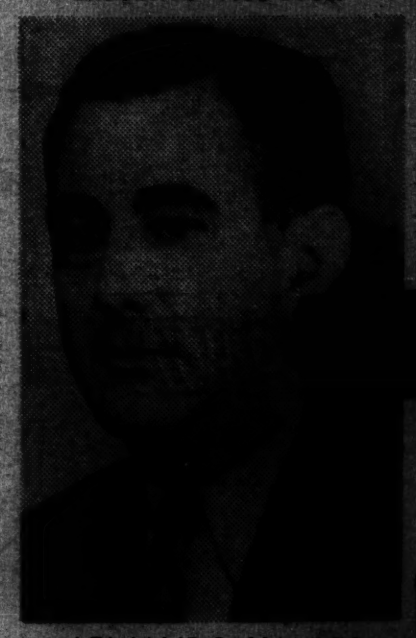
We shall extend our hand to our returning servicemen, forging a program which will protect the rights and privileges of every veteran on the job.

We shall lay the foundations for building our Union ever stronger, for organizing the unorganized workers in the food, fibre and tobacco industries, thus making our greatest contribution to the well-being of our nation.

LUISA MORENO
International Vice-Pres.

CONRAD ESPE
Executive Vice-Pres.

ARMANDO RAMIREZ
International Vice-Pres.



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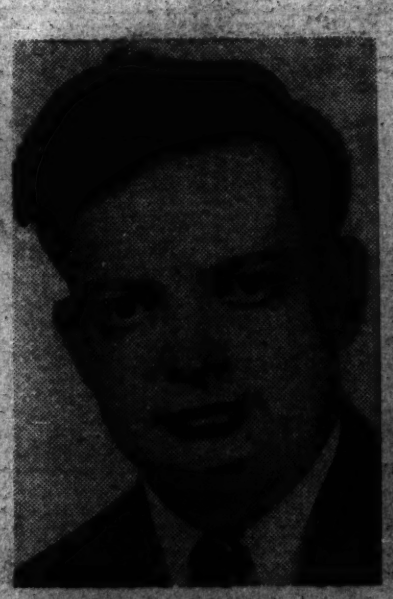
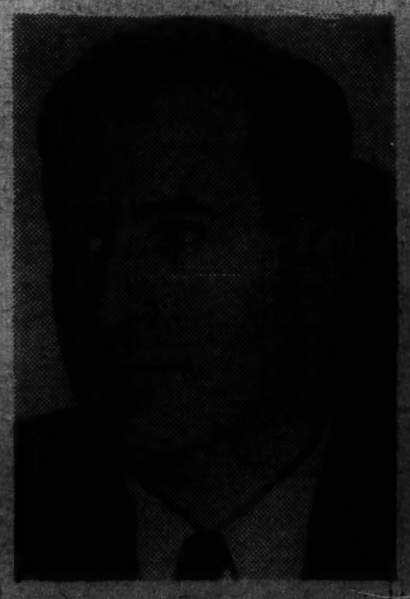
International Vice-Pres.

DIXIE TILLER
International Vice-Pres.



OTIS NATION
International Vice-Pres.

ROBERT CLARK
International Vice-Pres.



LEWIS BENTZLEY
International Vice-Pres.

OWEN WHITFIELD
International Vice-Pres.

65c Minimum Wage A Must, Union Tells Senate Committee

Washington, D. C.—The raising of the minimum wage level to 65c per hour is an absolute necessity to correct substandard living conditions, UCAPAWA and other unions told a subcommittee of the Senate Education and Labor Committee on Nov. 17 and 18. The down-to-earth facts of life on substandard earnings were brought dramatically to the attention of Congressmen and newspapermen at the two-day hearings, by rank and file members of UCAPAWA and the CIO Textile Workers Union, as well as official spokesmen for the CIO and AFL.

Speaking for the 77,000 workers who are employed in plants which have contracts with UCAPAWA, Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly told the committee:

"Forty-five percent of the workers in the food and tobacco industries are earning below the rate of 65c per hour which the Pepper Resolution recommends as the minimum below which the War Labor Board shall consider any wage rate substandard. It is estimated that 60% of the workers in these industries do not have an annual income high enough to meet a budget of $1730 a year, which would provide a standard of living at the lowest economic level."

Mrs. Sasuly asserted that the War Labor Board has failed to adopt a forceful policy to eliminate substandard wages, while profits in the food industry have sky-rocketed to 191% above the 1936-1939 period. The traditionally high-profit tobacco industry has also reached a peak of 26% above profits in the base period.

WORSE OFF NOW

With the reduction in take-home pay which will result from loss of premium overtime pay as the war approached its end, it is imperative that action be taken to maintain the purchasing power of workers in these two industries, Mrs. Sasuly said.

The actual cost of establishing a 65c minimum wage throughout both industries would be $114 million—a sum which could easily be absorbed by current profits without the necessity for price increases.

MAINTAIN BUYING POWER

It was pointed out to the committee that in the food, fibre and tobacco industries, where wages have been traditionally below that in other manufacturing industries, between 1935 and the present the difference between these wages has become even greater. In the past two-and-a-half years, the workers in the food, fibre and tobacco industries were worse off than they were before the war in relation to workers in other manufacturing industries.

Ruth Decker, member of Local 32, a cannery worker at the Frazier Packing Company, came from Elwood, Indiana, to testify before the Senate subcommittee. She told how tough it was for her and other workers, who earn only 50c per hour, to get along on what they were making. In spite of these low wages, workers in the food-canning industry increased their production by 37% over the 1937-41 average.

CAN'T MAKE ENDS MEET

Christine Gardner, Local 22 member, who makes $20 a week in the Reynolds tobacco stemmery in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and whose husband makes $17.20 a week, told the Committee that her family could not make ends meet on these earnings.

The testimony of the cannery, tobacco, textile and other low-paid industry workers supplemented statements by CIO President Philip Murray and other CIO and AFL representatives in support of the Pepper 65c Minimum Wage Resolution.

STOP GAP FOR HUNGER

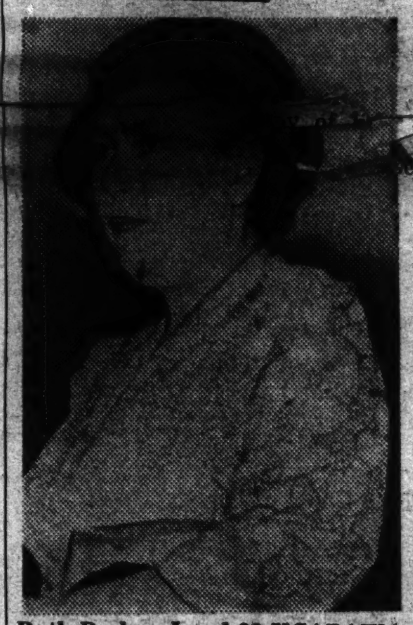
[illegible] Rieve of the Textile Workers (CIO), said, "Elimination of substandard wages below 65c will be a substantial contribution to the solution of America's economic problems and future, and must be joined with the unfreezing of wages as a whole."

Rieve said that 11 million workers now earn less than 65c an hour and warned that postwar buying power essential to full production and employment is threatened unless this income level is raised.

"It is evident that the 65c floor under wages would be only one step, a mere stopgap for hunger, toward the ultimate goal of providing an American standard of living for all American workers," the CIO spokesman said.

Elizabeth Sasuly, UCAPAWA Washington Representative.

Christine Gardner, Local 22 UCAPAWA, Winston-Salem, N. C.



Ruth Decker, Local 32 UCAPAWA, Elwood, Indiana.

Ruth Decker Describes Life on 50c an Hour

"My household expenses and food expenses run $15 a week. I have no fresh meat for my family, only we do have rabbits and chicken," Ruth Decker, Local 32 member, told the Senate on Nov. 17. "We do not have milk. I can afford milk only for the baby.

"My eleven-year old boy fell down and broke his arm. He helped pay for it. He picked tomatoes in the field for the farmers to pay for his broken arm.

"The oldest boy, 15, feels now like it is his place to quit school and go into some of the factories and add to our family income in order that the 11-year-old boy can get by.

"We have been married 18 years, and my husband has never had a suit of clothes. He has only his work clothes. I make my own clothing. The dress that I have here is borrowed."

Christine Gardner Tells Her Story Of Hardship

"Our food costs us more than anything else. The clothing, we don't get much clothing since food has gone so high. My baby's milk is $1.19 a week, and the other children get no milk," Christine Gardner said before the Senate committee.

"My husband and I have been married 10 years, during which time he has never had a suit of clothes. His greatest ambition is to buy for me a Christmas present and for himself a complete suit of clothes.

"Mine is seasonal work, and the other times we are entirely dependent on what my husband makes, and that's $18 a week before deductions. Out of these wages, we cannot save anything for medical care, and when you depend on free medical care, it's probable you never get a doctor when you need him.

"I have three children—2, 7, and 9. Two of them are in school. [illegible] twenty-four cents a day. I lost one baby because [illegible] medical care."

CONVENTION GREETINGS

from

LOCAL 88 UCAPAWA

NEWARK, N.J.

UCAPAWA News

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Vol. IV, No. 22 Dec. 1, 1944

Best Wishes
for a Successful
Win-the-War Convention

Local 11
UCAPAWA
LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS

Greetings to the
FIFTH NATIONAL
CONVENTION
•
Local 115
UCAPAWA

Sisters Gardner, Sasuly, and Decker at the Senate hearings on the 65c minimum wage resolution.

Wage Increases Urged By Local

By Jack Montgomery, Regional Director

Akron, Ohio—In a packed Union meeting, the members of Quaker Oats Local 120 unanimously called for a community committee to lead the fight for breaking the Little Steel Formula. Speaking from the floor, Local Union members pointed out that the rising cost of living, while wages have been frozen, has made a farce of the national stabilizing program.

Hugh Moneypenny, President of the Local, and Charles Fowler said that the inability of the workers to purchase War Bonds was adversely affecting our war effort, and that too many times the general public interpreted the failure of workers to buy War Bonds to selfishness when actually it resulted from their economic inability.

Copies of the resolution were sent to the Akron Industrial Union Council, the National Office of UCAPAWA and to the CIO, requesting that this become a national program.

"The fight to break the Little Steel Formula is not labor's fight alone. Small businessmen in particular have suffered as much as the workers themselves in feeling the effects of the Little Steel Formula," stated UCAPAWA Regional Director Jack Montgomery. "The low purchasing power of the American worker is the concern of all groups."

Local 186 Chalks Up A Big Year

Philadelphia, Pa. — Making the greatest gains since its founding in the past year, Local 186 is for the first time sending delegates to a national convention of the Union, according to its President, George Ardelean. The Local is proud to be a host of the Fifth National Convention.

Increases in pay, contracts and check-off, have been won for all eight units in Local 186. Two firsts belong to the Local's credit; first in collecting contributions for the PAC drive, and first in bringing in the largest amount of advertisements for the Convention issue of UCAPAWA News.

Two debts amounting to $1,050 have been paid to the lawyer and the National Office, leaving a bank balance of $1,031.14.

Sincere, hard working Shop Stewards have won for the Local a citation from the Treasury Department for the Fifth War Loan Drive. And they don't intend to let down on the job during the Sixth War Loan Drive, or ever, until Victory is won.

[illegible] in their can is [illegible]ward won by the unit [illegible] American Preserve Company.

Here's looking forward to a new year and the addition of a new unit at the Penn State Cigar Company.

Local 194 Votes For $1.50 Dues

By Paul Gardner, Regional Director

Chicago, Ill. — Realizing that outstanding organizing work has to have money to put it over, Local 194 at a membership meeting on Nov. 19 voted for $1.50 dues. The meeting also went on record for a full-time business agent for the Local.

This action is intended to strengthen the Union and make possible the fulfilling of the program mapped out for the State of Illinois.

FLASH!

Election Victory At Swift Cotton

Memphis, Tenn.—On November 9th, Local 19 became the bargaining agent for its 24th plant. The employees of the Swift Cotton Oil Company voted overwhelmingly for UCAPAWA-CIO over the AFL. The vote was 77 for the CIO, 7 for the AFL, and 4 non-union, thereby ousting the AFL Amalgamated Meatcutters which has been the bargaining agent for the Swift workers for the past two years.

Nathan Littlejohn, Swift employee and active supporter of the CIO, said the workers were eager to participate in a "real union—the CIO."

FOR A NEW D.W.G. CONTRACT: The Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Joint Council, composed of UCAPAWA representatives from the locals in Lima, Delphos, Van Wert, St. Marys and Findlay D.W.G. cigar plants in Ohio, and the plant in Detroit, met in Lima on Nov. 1 to draw up a new contract to be submitted to the Company. The representatives are shown above, with Regional Director Jack Montgomery sitting in the left foreground. On Nov. 9 the Council met again to complete their discussions and to prepare to submit the contract proposals to the membership of the locals for ratification. The Union is requesting wage increases, improved seniority and grievance procedure provisions and increased vacations, among other things. Negotiations were expected to start toward the end of November.

Increases Gained In Two Seattle Canneries

By Florence Palmer, Reporter

Seattle, Washington—Wage increases retroactive to March 1 were awarded to the employees of the Bergoust-Wilson Company after eight months of patient waiting. Brother John James, Local 7-2 Shop Steward, reports that back pay checks average from $50 to $75 and add up to a total of $1,256.76. When negotiations failed after three months the case was handed to the Regional WLB as a dispute case. The Board granted a 4½c per hour increase in the wage minimum and the classifications, and a night shift differential of [illegible] effective as of July 12. New scales are now 71c minimum for women with classifications ranging to 81c. Minimum for men is now 85c per hour with classifications ranging to $1.20. Women, when performing men's work, receive the same scale of wages as men. A great deal of help and cooperation was received from UCAPAWA Washington Representative, Elizabeth Sasuly, in bringing the case to a successful conclusion.

AIM 40-HOUR WEEK

Employing 20 year-round workers, with more during the peak season, the Company is engaged in processing meat balls, pickles and sauerkraut. The Army gets a large share of the last two items.

Also affected by the new wage scales is the National Fruit Canning Company. Retroactive pay checks will be ready shortly and will amount to several thousand dollars. This plant is at present working on a government contract for 20,000 cases of preserves. They also pack mince meat and apples.

Until now, cannery workers have worked an eight-hour day and a 40-hour week during the off season, and an eight-hour day, 48-hour week during the fresh fruit and vegetable season, with time and one-half for all Sunday and holiday work since 1937. The ultimate aim of the Union is a 40-hour week all year round, but the first step in the fight is to win time-and-a-half for the 6th day of work. Now that wage increases have been achieved, Local 7-2 expects to take up this campaign with renewed vigor, in order to put the canning industry on the same working basis as other industries.

Greetings to the

UCAPAWA-CIO

Fifth National Convention

▼

from

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Workers

Local 78—UCAPAWA

CALIFORNIA & ARIZONA

Convention Greetings

Stogie Machine Operators & Stripper Industrial Union

RICHARD REINHARDT, *President* — BURNETT DEFIBAUGH *Vice-President* — ALBERTA SCHAEFFER *Secretary-Treasurer*

Local 200 ● **Wheeling, West Virginia**

THE ENEMY IS STILL THERE!

Keep Buying Extra Bonds!

FEPC
What it Means

To Latin Americans

By Luisa Moreno, International Vice-President

IT was Sunday afternoon in Los Angeles. A conference had been called on Fair Employment Practices by the Spanish-speaking subcommittee. Labor, businessmen and professionals sat in rows together, solemnly.

"You may think that this proposed legislation does not affect me directly, and that is true," said a Mexican businessman. "But it affects my children and my relatives and the other people in the community, so it affects me."

The same is true of our members in general. They may think that the bills for a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission does not affect them directly, but it does. While the needs of war production have opened wide the gates of most industrial plants to men and women regardless of race, color or creed, the needs of post-war prosperity will demand that those gates remain wide open.

Simple Good Sense

UCAPAWA members should be in the forefront for the passage of fair employment practices legislation, not alone because it means jobs for many thousands of our members, because it means the very existence of our local unions in some places, but, above all, because this is plain, simple good sense to do so.

Our Union has a number of important minority groups in its ranks—men and women of different races and national origins. Among them are the Spanish-speaking workers in fresh fruit, vegetable and fish canneries, in walnut and pecan plants, and in the tobacco industry.

All Workers Suffer

Along with other Americans, the Latin-Americans in the United States have worked, sacrificed and bled in this war, for the sake of a happier and better world. When the period of cutbacks and reconversion begins, would it be fair to practice Hitler's policies here and allow discrimination in industry because of race, color, national origin or creed? Could unions stand by and see the seniority rights of their members trampled and destroyed by selfish interests?

"It can happen here" if we do not work diligently for legislation that can take its rightful place with the Wagner Act, the Social Security Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. It has happened here in the past. Not so long ago workers with Spanish names, in the Southwest particularly, would only be employed in certain less desirable jobs in a small number of industries.

"Mexican" workers were usually denied the right to a steady job. Ability was not considered for advancement from unskilled to better paid work. A conscious effort was made by special interests to brand and condem Latin-Americans as "cheap labor." In so doing, selfish employers were able, not only to prevent the advancement of the Mexican people of the Southwest, but also to keep down the pay of other workers and create disunity.

Fair Play

Industrial democracy, while creating unity and strength, will benefit all workers, everywhere in America. A permanent FEPC would mean just that—fair play and the growth of democracy.

The Republican Party stated in its campaign platform that it stood for a Fair Employment Practices Commission, but that was just campaign material. President Roosevelt is for it. He needs the support of every CIO member, of every progressive-minded person, for the passage of the FEPC bills in Congress.

This matter concerns us at home and abroad. We can't keep on waving the banner of "Good Neighbors" when Latin-Americans in the United States are treated as outcasts in certain industries. That "Good Neighbor" policy can start at home and be permanently successful for the benefit of millions of people in the Americas.

Action Is Urgent

The CIO has always felt the need of close relations with labor in the Latin-American countries. That is because it is for the mutual benefit of the Latin-Americans and the U. S. workers. Working for a permanent FEPC would bring us a lot closer to Latin-American labor than all the speeches and delegations that could be made and sent during the next ten years. After all, action speaks for itself.

Time is short. Let every local union and executive board discuss FEPC at its next meeting. Action is urgent—Senators and Congressmen should be contacted without delay.

Let's work to make permanent fair employment practices a reality. It will be another milestone of true democracy in America.

The FEPC

The campaign to place the FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Committee) on a permanent basis through Congressional statute has been gaining steady ground during the past months. It is being widely recognized that a permanent FEPC must be established now to insure postwar harmony in industry.

In the House of Representatives hearings on the proposed legislation (HR 3986, HR 4004, HR 4005) took place June 1 to 6 before the Committee on Labor, Rep. Mary T. Norton (D-N.J.), Chairman; they were temporarily adjourned for the Congressional recess.

In the Senate, the bill there (S 2048) was reported out of committee favorably on Sept. 20; it is now on the Senate calendar.

Here is what your local union can do now:

1—Write your two Senators, asking them to pledge support to S 2048.

2—Write to Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley (D-Ky.) and Senate Minority Leader Wallace H. White Jr. (R-Me.), urging fulfillment of the parties' campaign pledges by bringing S 2048 up in the Senate immediately and working for its passage.

3—Write Rep. Norton, urging her Committee report HR 3986 favorably to the House without delay.

4—Write your Representative, asking him to pledge support to HR 3986.

To Negro People

By Paul Gardner, Regional Director

THE wartime contributions of the Negro people to our Nation's war effort is now a matter of record. The Negroes took their places on the production lines as skilled mechanics, pipe fitters, plumbers, electricians, and in all other lines of work in this country's plane, tank, gun and food plants. Their achievements proved beyond a doubt that efficiency in production is not a matter of color.

Both in production and in the field of battle, a new understanding is being reached by those of us who were born white and have had the opportunity to produce and fight side by side with our black Americans. Whites have learned that Negroes desire and fight for the same principles we want and fight for. We are also learning that we cannot solve our problems unless the problems of the Negroes and all minority groups are solved.

The whites do not want to live in slums. Neither do Negroes.

The whites want jobs. So do Negroes.

The whites do not want to work for low wages. Neither do Negroes.

The whites want good hours and working conditions. So do Negroes.

The whites want Victory and a lasting peace. So do Negroes.

The brutal fact is that the whites cannot have these things unless Negroes also have them.

Take jobs, for example. If Negroes are unemployed and the whites do not fight to gain jobs for them, the employers use them against the whites. Negroes are forced by necessity to take our jobs at the call of the employer. This allows the employer to play white against Negro and Negro against white, with the result that neither gets any place.

It is the same with high wages. If the whites allow Negroes to work for low wages, then the employer steps in and tells the whites that they, too, must work for low wages, or he will hire Negroes to replace them.

Our Union's constitution provides for the uniting of all workers regardless of race, color, creed or national origin. Only in this way can we win higher wages, better hours and working conditions, better housing and medical care. Those of us who have reaped these benefits through UCAPAWA's program now know the wisdom of these provisions.

The FEPC is not only helping the Negro people and other minorities; it is aiding all Americans to lift themselves higher on the road to a better way of life. It should therefore be supported by all Americans to a place of permanency in our land of freedom.

How to Get in Solid With Hitler and Tojo

By Humphrey Bogart

HOW'D you like to earn a decoration from Hitler or Hirohito? Here's the way you work it. You don't have to join the German Army or the Jap Army. You don't even have to blow up an American war plant.

It's easier than that. All you have to do is follow the line the Germans and their stooges are handing out in this country. All you have to do is swallow the race-bunk. That's what the Germans want us to do. They figure that if enough of us talk this race-bunk, we'll get to fighting among ourselves. That'll weaken us so much that we'll be easy pickings the next time—even if we should win this time.

Listen, brother. In this man's country you can marry the girl you like. You can pal around with the folks you like. You can pray in a Church of your own choosing. Okay. But that doesn't mean that one kind of Church is better than another. It doesn't mean one kind of people is better than another.

Science Knows

Let's look at the record.

Here's what science knows. It doesn't say maybe. It knows.

There are no "superior races." There are only people who for a time happen to be luckier or better situated than other people.

There are no "inferior races." There are only people who've had bad luck, or poor education, or maybe live in a tough climate.

For example, there's no such thing as a "Jewish Race." There are Negro Jews, there are Chinese Jews. If you believe in the Jewish religion, you're a Jew. That's all there is to it—although the Germans want you to believe different.

Figure This Out

Examine a man's brain. It tells you nothing about his "race." Test his blood. It tells you nothing about his "race." (Healthy blood plasma can save the life of any wounded soldier of any color.) Nor does skin color mean a thing except that certain people have a little more of a chemical, melanin, in their skins, and that makes them look more or less like Joe Louis; and others have a little more of a chemical called carotene in their skins, and that makes them look a little more like me.

Figure this one out. It's funny, isn't it, that the two peoples on this Earth who are responsible for the fact that decent Americans are suffering and dying today—The German people and the Japanese people—are exactly the two peoples who believe in "race superiority" and "race inferiority" and who are out to murder everybody who doesn't agree with them.

So—if you want to be a German or a Jap stooge, you know how to go about it. Just get out in the street or talk to your neighbor and preach race prejudice.

Hitler will bless you. Hirohito will applaud you. In fact, you'll be a damned good Jap, a damned good German.

There's only one thing you won't be.

You won't be a good American.

Humphrey Bogart

Local 7-2 Fights For Mex. Worker

By Florence Palmer, Reporter

Seattle, Wash.—Mexican nationals have been employed at the National Fruit Canning Co. here since July, because of the labor shortage. These men have been a big help during this critical period on fresh fruit, 15 of them having worked during the summer and 11 at the present time.

Merced Diaz, one of the Mexicans, was injured on August 12 while working on the cherry pitting machine on the night shift. His fingers on one hand were cut very badly, he was unable to work for weeks, and his fingers were left stiff.

When several weeks had elapsed and no compensation was sent him, Local 7-2 took up his case, and a letter was written to the Department of Labor and Industries signed by James Moellendorf, Local President and Business Agent.

The Local succeeded in protecting Diaz's rights. It was not long until he received his settlement of $460.00.

Best Wishes
The
WOOLSON SPICE CO.
Toledo, Ohio
•
6 Years
of Satisfactory
Relationship with
UCAPAWA

LABOR AND THE FARMER

The Farmer Is A Friend

By Connie Anderson, Research Director

JAMES S. MORSE, general farmer of Levanna, N. Y., life-long Republican, member of the Grange and Farm Bureau, actively campaigned for the reelection of Roosevelt, explaining that "farmers are also in favor of winning the war and against returning to Hooverism."

The level head of Mr. Morse and hundreds of thousands like him upset the greatest hope of the Dewey crowd, namely that they could cash in on the rural vs. city antagonisms, turn a substantial number of farmers against Roosevelt by painting him as a friend of the wage earner only, and (shhh!) the tool of something from the big cities called the "Hillman-Browder Axis."

When the returns from up-state New York came in, Dewey's Publicity Director James Cassidy said frankly "now we are licked."

To guarantee that reactionaries will stay licked we must reach firmer understanding between farmers and workers. In this election we simply held the 1940 line: Prevented Dewey from increasing a conservative farm vote. With a little more attention paid to the needs of farmers, we can develop a strong alliance, for the basis of common interests is there.

Pull Together

Voicing the sentiments of progressive farmers the nation over, Ralph Y. De Wolfe, Chairman of the N. Y. Farmers for Roosevelt Committee, said "This war has brought our nation closer together, and every ounce of our newly won unity is needed in order that we may achieve a speedy victory, a stable peace, and postwar full production.

"Those issues transcend party, class or racial lines. The farmers are on the side of abundance, and they want no return to scarcity or to Hooverism."

In support of the Roosevelt administration he remarked that "never before have we had a government so sensitive to the needs of farmers."

These are exactly the same reasons labor supports the Roosevelt program. The measures, to be sure, are different which will help farmers to progress—and we must understand and support these measures, while we persuade farmers to back us in our needs.

For example, farmers want shorter hours, are deeply resentful of the gruelling hours they must still put in to earn a year's living. Such measures as rural electrification and more machinery will lighten and shorten their labors. On the other hand, we defend and extend a shorter work day through our unions.

It is not to our advantage to neglect community and government schemes to bring a shorter work day on farms, nor to the advantage of farmers to cast a jaundiced eye on the eight hour day in factories. If we pull together, we both advance. If we fight each other, we both go backwards—and such city-rural conflicts nourished throughout American history have been a potent weapon in the hands of reactionaries. Many a vote in Congress has lined up on a city vs. country basis.

The people of America want an ACTIVE government, to promote world peace, world trade, minimum wages, guaranteed farm prices—a whole series of measures to help our country expand.

Do-Nothing Eras

In the "do nothing" eras of

Harding, Coolidge and Hoover farmers saw

- farm prices beginning to drop in 1921, continuing their downward course for 12 long years.
- the farm mortgage debt getting larger
- foreign markets lost because of high tariffs
- banks refusing to loan to farmers
- foreclosures, evictions, children returning from the cities unemployed.

Under the Roosevelt Administration steps were taken to improve matters:

- foreclosures decreased to 6.6 per 1,000 farms in 1943—they were 21.6 in 1926, a year of Coolidge "prosperity", and 54.1 in the depression year of 1933.
- cash farm income rose from 4.7 billions in 1932 to 8.17 in 1939, to around 20 billion dollars in 1944.
- only 13.4% of our farms had electricity in 1930, but by 1943 40.4% enjoyed modern light and power — and the Rural Electrification Administration had not "ruined the country" with "socialism."
- rural bank failures decreased from 1,222 in 1932 to three in 1943.
- prices of farm products have jumped 118% in this war, but went up 130% in World War I; but prices of things farmers buy increased 98% in the last war in contrast to 38% in this war.

Roosevelt's Program

Continuation of the Roosevelt program holds promise of a two billion dollar fund to guarantee farm prices for two years after the war at 90% parity—an essential measure of security for farmers in the conversion period, but a measure ignored by Congress in its postwar measures to date.

Other Roosevelt postwar plans of direct benefit to farmers include "TVA" developments in other big river basins; speeding the electrification of rural America; freezing lockers on a community basis and in farm homes; low-cost prefabricated farm buildings and homes; use of more labor-saving machinery; improved rural schools and hospitals; coverage under the Wagner-Murray-Dingell health bill.

With such a record and promise of a "Go-something" Administration, how could farmers hesitate to vote for Roosevelt? With the facts in mind, farmers would not hesitate to support the FDR program, but unfortunately the countryside is bombarded with reactionary papers such as the Chicago Tribune and journals of the old-line farm organizations which fuzzy over the governmental measures necessary to support farms and lay a thick coat of "horror" words, such as "unions—strikes—$100 a week wages," the "CIO seeking to control the country through Hillman," never failing to mention his birthplace and religious faith.

Prosperity Indivisible

But many farmers failed to swallow this truck, especially where committees operated to air the issues. Sen. Scott Lucas in Illinois was backed up by Republican for Lucas clubs in many rural areas. Emily Taft Douglas defeated Stephen A. Day as Representative-at-Large from Illinois, although Day is the darling of the Chicago Tribune which is supposed to have a vise on rural areas. Similar actions helped to defeat reactionary Congressmen Danaher in Connecticut, Holman in Washington, Clark in Missouri and Ham Fish in New York—further illustrations of the failure of reactionaries to sweep farmers off their feet in a wholesale swing behind Dewey.

"Prosperity is Indivisible" was the theme of one Farmers for Roosevelt campaign leaflet. In the next four years farmers and labor can make peace and prosperity stick only if they work together, supporting each other's particular programs.

Planning For The Future

By Charles Law, International Representative

POSTWAR planning for agriculture is a very important part of the development of an overall postwar program in which Labor, the Farmer, Government and Distributors as well as Industry are very vitally interested. These groups should meet together more frequently to develop these plans and put them into effect.

Labor's counsel is sought and Labor must share the responsibility for the type of planning we have. The present trend in planning is to prepare for a depression, and unless we, the people, join planning groups to give our solutions, the reactionary elements that now predominate in planning groups will bring about another depression.

A very fine summary in Postwar Planning for Agriculture has been prepared by the Dept. of Agriculture and the War Food Administration based on State reports.

Much vitally important material has been collected by the State planning committees and is available for use. We have a very clear picture of wartime soil depletion. We know what should be done to remedy this condition of the soil; how it can be brought back to its former fertility by proper care and crop rotation. We have, from these reports, an almost exact knowledge of our productive potentialities, both peak and sustained. We can enact necessary legislation to bring our planning to fruition. We can secure the necessary publicity outlets to insure free public discussion and educational programs.

We, in Arizona, are planning a series of forums to be put on the air by a local radio station either by a paid sponsor or as a sustaining program by the station. We are planning to have groups meet in school buildings to listen to programs and carry on discussions after the air program is over. Your locality may not have the advantage that we enjoy in having a "tailor-made" subject for forum discussion. The development of the Colorado River and the reclamation of desert lands, is an almost inexhaustible subject for discussion and planning in Arizona. Well thought out programs on almost any subject, even on how to beat the depression, can be used by a radio station as a public service.

Don't forget, a listening audience to a radio station is the same a circulation to a newspaper. Talk it over among the workers, the farmers, the chamber of commerce, churches and fraternal organizations. We are all people and are all interested in promoting for full employment and prosperity in the postwar period.

Many G.I.'s are coming back with a yen for farm life. There will be about 300,000 farms for rent or sale in the first 2 or 3 years after the close of the war. Another 8,000 can be established on what is now military reservations. About 25,000 or 30,000 more through reclamation of good lands not now in farms. Still later another 120,000 to 150,000 through long range reclamation and development projects.

We have the potential productivity. Only we can determine what shall be done with our potential. It is interesting to note in the reports that most States assume there will be public programs, after the war, for the establishment of qualified veterans and others on farms, and yet no plans have been made with this in view.

Another interesting thing is the attitude of the various State committees toward cooperative buying and selling. None of the reports oppose cooperative marketing in any way. One-fourth of the reports specifically endorse cooperative marketing. Yet not one specifically outlines a plan for cooperative buying and selling.

The pressing need for specific planning for the development of export markets now is seen in the expressed fear, in almost all the reports of surpluses after the war.

That Labor should be present at the planning table is shown quite clearly in the suggestion, by a number of the reports, that the Farmer should be protected by "forward pricing" through which he would be guaranteed at least a minimum price before planting. Couldn't seasonal or migratory labor just as reasonably request the same type of protection?

Of the 48 reports submitted, only Arizona and California gave consideration to labor housing.

Where could we hope to better our conditions more quickly than at the time plans are being made concerning us?

Wake up Labor! You've been trying to come from behind long enough. This is a brigh new future and we must help to build it!

We Can Make Real Gains With The New Congress

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Washington Representative

THE 24½ million people (or more, with the soldier vote) who voted for the President on November 7th knew what they were doing. To those who said they merely voted not to "change horses in the middle of the stream" they said NUTS.

They voted to elect a Congress which would back the President. They started in the primaries with the elimination of Dies, Starnes, Costello and Senate isolationists like the two Clarks of Idaho and Missouri and the nomination of Senators Pepper and Hill — and continued through on November 7th by knocking out the leading fascist-lovers and exponents of a negotiated peace like Ham Fish, Gerald P. Nye and Stephen Day.

The people of this country knew more than some people gave them credit for. They did all this in the face of 87% of the country's press which opposed the President. They understood the need for international security and peace, and they did something about getting it. This is the outstanding fact of the 1944 elections. Foreign policy was the main issue on which the American people voted.

Shape of Congress

Let's look at the shape of the new Congress and see what our job will be. In the Senate every Administration supporter was returned to office for six more years (Wagner of New York, Thomas of Utah, Lucas of Illinois and Downey of California). This wasn't just a question of Democrats and Republicans. The one Democrat who lost was Senator Gillette of Iowa who has opposed the President more than he has supported him. Important Republican victors in the Senate were men like Wayne Morse of Oregon who supported Wendell Willkie's foreign policy. Without going into all details it is clear that the 35 Senatorial races resulted in a net gain for progress.

Most of the bloc of progressive Congressmen were returned. The elections in the House add up to a probable Democratic majority of 30 more than in the 78th Congress which in its closing days has two more Democrats than Republicans.

The increased Democratic majority is no guarantee that constructive legislation will now go through without any trouble. While it is true that there are more progressive Democrats in the House than Republicans, we will still have the problem of Poll-Tax Democrats uniting with Republicans to kill important legislation. But the mandate of the electorate endorsing the President's policies was so strong that we can expect it to affect many Congressmen who sometimes support the President and sometimes oppose him.

Furthermore, every Southern Representative and Senator from a poll-tax State can ponder the fact that the President's popular and electoral majority were so great that he could have been elected even if Dewey had won most of the South!

This is the Congress to which we must bring the full weight of legislative campaigns which will be as active and powerful as the election campaign. Our main problem will be to make the foreign policy mandate which the people gave the President and Congress in the elections stick — and show Congress that they cannot be "good" on foreign policy and "bad" on domestic policy.

International Unity

We can't maintain our place in an organization for international collaboration if we move toward crises and depressions at home. The sixty million jobs which President Roosevelt called for and the Bretton Woods agreement for stabilization of money and development of productive resources throughout the world are part of the same thing: the maintenance of peace and achievement of a higher standard of living for the people.

The 79th Congress will go into session on January 3rd. If we bring to it the same spirit and work and intelligence which won the elections, we can achieve a positive program of constructive legislation.

Legislative Issues

Some of the most important issues which will be before the new Congress are:

- Legislation to put Dumbarton Oaks into effect and assure a lasting peace without any "ifs" or "buts."
- Legislation to approve the Bretton Woods agreements and other agreements to expand foreign trade. This means jobs at home and giving us the tools with which to build a lasting peace.
- Reconversion legislation providing production goals for the transition of our economy from wartime to peacetime — with adequate protection for the workers. We need this to attain the President's goal of 60 million jobs.
- New and expanded Social Security and health legislation along the lines of the Murray-Wagner-Dingell bill, to cover all workers.
- Fair tax legislation which will promote full employment and allow for decent standards of living.
- Amendment of the Fair Labor Standards Act to establish a minimum wage of at least 65c an hour.
- Legislation providing for equal pay for women. In our industries, and in many others, women work just as hard and perform just as skilled work at wages substantially less than those which men receive.
- Legislation establishing a permanent FEPC so that workers of all races, religions and nationalities may share in the jobs which will produce post-war prosperity for all Americans.
- Elimination of all barriers to the right to vote. First on the list is the poll-tax.

CONGRESSMAN DRIPP by Yomen

"HAVE FAITH GENTLEMEN, CLARE LUCE AND I WILL CARRY ON."

Union Workers In The Wards

"SORRY, I haven't got time to speak at your mass meeting," was the reply of a Congressman whom we were inviting to address a gathering of union members in Philadelphia. Crazy? It was six weeks before election, and a progressive Congressman did not have time to make a speech! But the Congressman was not crazy—he was busy, every minute of his time, organizing his district on a community basis. He had a job cut out for that union—and it was more than listening to speeches.

Connie Anderson, Research Director of UCAPAWA, who was given a leave of absence for two months before the election to serve as Women's Director of Eastern Pennsylvania for PAC, told this story to the News:

"What I need is workers in my district," the Congressman told me. "Please, if you don't mind, I'll send someone else to address your meeting. But get 20 or 25 of your members who live in my distric' to report for ward work—that's the best way you can support me for reelection."

Politics Is Work

And there is the simple but all-important political idea that finally penetrated our union heads. Politics, we have discovered, involves hard and methodical work in the neighborhoods—that's where elections are won or lost in the final analysis. Through the leadership of the Political Action Committee we have learned that if we want to back a candidate for election actively we organize canvassing in the neighborhoods for weeks before election day, get to know our neighbors thoroughly, and on election day man the polls with watchers and runners to bring out the voters.

When the history books are written, they will mark that the CIO had the vision to see that politics cannot be separated from economics—that a vote in Congress can affect the well-being of the members just as directly as a clause in a contract.

The year 1944 will be the milestone when this political "feel" became a complete reality. Up until this year—and especially after the election of 1942—labor in general had the unenviable reputation of political hot-air artists.

We were much like the happy-go-lucky housewife who promised a good plum pudding for dinner, but did not deliver simply because she stuck to the talking and wishing stage—"I'm in favor of a good plum pudding"—instead of getting down to the work of mixing concrete objects like eggs, butter and flour.

Now we are beginning to learn how to roll up our sleeves and bake the political puddings we desire and the American people need. We are learning ward organization, just as we once learned plant organization. Something new has been added to union life. Today, a good trade unionist works for a favorable vote in his ward just as eagerly as for a favorable settlement of a grievance in his department.

Tell It To Congress

NO one expects the present Lame Duck Congress to do anything constructive. The danger is that it will do something destructive. Your letters and wires to Congressmen and Senators on the issues below will help to protect important war and social measures.

War Powers Act Renewal

This is the act which gives FDR power to institute rationing, food subsidies and to enforce WLB orders against the Montgomery-Ward type of employer. Must be renewed by December 31.

ACTION: Tell your Senators and Congressmen that your vote of confidence in FDR was a mandate to Congress to extend his war powers without amendment.

Security Tax "Freeze"

Here is one case where we advocate a do-nothing policy. If Congress does nothing, the payroll tax on employers for social security benefits will go up to 2% on January 1.

ACTION: Tell your Congressmen to oppose any "freeze"—to leave the Act as it is.

Good Hunting

Union Men in Uniform

Fight For Higher Wages, Fox Tells UCAPAWA

By Cpl. Jack Fox, International Representative on Leave

THE convention of UCAPAWA now bears additional importance. It convinces me (as I'm sure it does you) that we must have the Fascists on the run. Fascism and union conventions don't mix very well as the German worker of 1933 can tell you.

This convention of our Union can make plans for the future too. That's because a good job was done to defeat the Dewey-Hoover-McCormick bloc which sought to take over the reins of the nation. You see, these people don't like union conventions either. But you can make plans for greater and greater organization of the unorganized. You can take steps to rehabilitate the soldier both economically and socially. You can take the necessary measures to guide labor along roads of peace and prosperity.

Jack Fox

UCAPAWA, like other progressive unions, has fought the good fight. It has fought a global war. That means that you have not only done your share to "feed the men who fight the Axis," but you've also done well in starving the Axis supporters at home. That's what a global war is, I guess. So you have a right to hold a convention.

The "global" victories of course have only increased our responsibilities. We just don't want to smash the Nazis and Japanese oppressors. We also want to build, a task which is even more difficult than soldiering.

Therefore, UCAPAWA, which is your Union and mine, must develop plans for reconstruction in the form of proper reconversion to peace-time living. There should be no reason for unemployment in the change toward peace-time production—especially in the food industries. Nor should wage scales, so dearly won in the past by the Union, be forfeited. On the contrary, production and wages should maintain their levels and increase. GI Joe didn't fight for low wages and don't let any one tell yor different.

Of course, to maintain production and guarantee conversion, our nation must have a foreign policy which will keep our workers busy. We've got to have good relations with the other nations, like Great Britain, Soviet Union, China and France; for these people look to us for postwar trade. That's one of the reasons the isolationist group was defeated in the elections. But that isn't enough. Labor all over the world, represented through their unions, must get together too. Who is there among us who wouldn't like to meet an English miner, a Stalingrad steel worker, or a Chinese peasant? We've got a lot in common with them.

I'm sorry that I can't attend our Convention. I'd sure like to. But I know that you will do the job well.

Message From A GI's Dad

By Louis F. Jedlicka, Business Agent, Local 110

I HAVE a message here for everybody. I do not know if I can clearly portray my thoughts but will attempt to do so.

Jedlicka

Just the other day I received a message from the War Department notifying me that my son was killed in action. Did he die in vain? NO, he did not. He died fighting for FREEDOM for YOU and ME. He was just one. There were thousands of others who have made the supreme sacrifice and there will be many, many more.

It is up to all of us to see that these boys have not died in vain.

When anybody spreads talk and propaganda that tends to create distrust and disunity among people, he is working against the principles for which these boys died. Possibly some of these spreaders of disunity are just plain IGNORANT. Maybe they do not realize what they are doing. Maybe they are doing it for personal selfish reasons or maybe they are the class of people who do not value living in a free country. Whatever reason they have, if they are going to be decent Americans and want to live with decent Americans, they should desist from such activities.

When the boys come back, will your conscience let you say that you did everything possible to build up the things for which they were fighting, or will you have to say that you were trying to disrupt and destroy the very things that so many of the boys died trying to preserve?

In closing, I ask all of you to do everything you can to help the war effort and if you meet a disrupter, put him in his place and ask him if he thinks the boys over there would approve of his actions.

Fight for freedom on the home front.

Tisa Salutes PAC and Labor

By S/Sgt. John Tisa, International Representative on Leave

John Tisa

FRANKLY, the fear of the isolationist Republican machine getting into office kept many of us soldiers on edge.

Most of us in the Armed Forces are aware of the significant part played in the recent elections by PAC and the labor movement as a whole. We are grateful to you in fighting so hard in the interest of America. You did a double job: protected the progress of labor, and at the same time assured a good future for all those in the armed services.

I get the UCAPAWA NEWS regularly and am glad to see that the organization is growing and solidifying itself. A strong labor movement in the postwar period is necessary for a prosperous country.

"A" Is For Achievement

"An army travels on its stomach." In spite of all the improvements of modern warfare, this still holds true. Fighting men need food for energy and strength, and as President Roosevelt stated "victory depends as much on our ability to produce food as on our ability to manufacture guns, planes and ships."

The following locals have received "A" awards from the War Food Administration for outstanding achievement in food production:

Local 186, Philadelphia, Pa.
Producing jams and jellies at the American Preserve Company.

Local 80, Camden, N. J.
Producing army rations, canned soup, beans at the Campbell Soup Company.

Local 17, Rochelle, Illinois, and Local 18, DeKalb, Illinois
Producing canned peas, corn, beans at the California Packing Corporation.

Local 113, Longmont, Colorado
Producing canned peas, beets, limas and pumpkins at the Kuner-Empson Canneries.

These two locals received Army-Navy "E" Awards before the "A" Award was established:

Local 13, Chicago, Illinois
Producing tomato juice, chili dinner, boned chicken at the College Inn Food Products Co.

Local 110, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Producing oats, pancakes, flour, corn meal, grits at the Quaker Oats Company.

UCAPAWA Gives A Hand To Veterans

EXTENDING a hand to returning Servicemen as they make the jump back to civilian life, CIO unions are making plans to welcome veterans back into plants and factories all over America.

In June, 1944, the Int. Exec. Board of UCAPAWA adopted the following policy in regard to servicemen's rights:

- Permanent waiver of initiation and permit fees for all honorably discharged veterans.
- Vets returning to their jobs within 9 months after discharge entitled to straight cumulative plant seniority accruing during service in the Armed Forces.
- Preference given to veterans in new hirings.
- In case of recalls, veterans having been employed by the Company before are to receive preference over other servicemen.
- New employees who are discharged vets are entitled to plant seniority plus length of service in case of lay-offs.

Making K Rations Is Top Union Job

THE pride and boast of the members of Local 207 is their production of K Rations on government orders. Ever since the war their work at the Hills Brothers food-processing plant in Brooklyn has assumed a new significance—they are feeding the men in the services!

"You have to have top seniority in the plant to work in the K Ration Department," Emmanuel Papas, Local 207 Business Agent, told the News. "Almost all the workers in the Department are women, and they average $48 to $50 per week for a 6-day week, working 7¼ hours per day, and getting time-and-a-half for Saturdays."

"On the Fruit Bars," added Local Financial Secretary Rose DeCrescenzo, "we average as much as $59 per week. Only the workers with the highest plant seniority do this work."

The Fruit Bar is the Glamour Girl of the Hills Brothers plant. It is a new product, especially made for the men on the battlefronts, and it is highly nutritious, full of vitamins. Of all the foods that go into the K Rations, the Fruit Bars are the only food actually processed at this plant.

K Ration Dept.

On one immense floor of the plant, the K rations are made and assembled by several hundred girls in white uniforms, their fast-working hands moving in rhythm with the machines and belt lines.

The fruit bars are made from chopped prunes, apricots, figs, peaches, apples, raisins and orange peel, and they taste like something special. At several long clean tables the girls sit and work the ingredients into a firm rectangular mold. In another end of the Department are the wrapping machines; and here the girls stand, four to each machine, setting the fruit bars into double cellophane wrappings. Later, the fruit bars go through a special pasteurizing process to assure freedom from germs.

A large section of the Department is taken up by three assembly lines — the Breakfast, Dinner and Supper rations. Here, in a flash of the eye, the Breakfast worker will assemble a can of chopped ham and eggs, a fruit bar, two packets of crackers, a bag of powdered coffee, 4 lumps of sugar, chewing gum and a box of 4 cigarettes—and it travels down the line in its cardboard box, ready to be sealed and shipped.

The Dinner ration, in another small box, contains a can of tasty cheese, lunch crackers, a packet of dehydrated lemon or orange juice, 4 lumps of sugar, a book of matches, a can key, chewing gum and cigarettes.

For Supper, the ration-eater will find a can of pork loaf with apple, bouillon powder, a bar of chocolate, cigarettes, chewing gum and a packet of toilet tissues.

The workers boast that the K Ration boxes could remain in water for 10 days without harm. The boxes are waxed, and waxed again, inside and out, to keep them watertight.

Some of the girls (the unmarried ones, of course) like to add a little spice to the K Rations by enclosing a little note with their names and addresses for the soldiers who will get their food. Very often a lively correspondence ensues, like the following letter which was sent to Rae Holt by a certain Pvt. Mike N. DeMaio from Germany:

"Dear Rae,

"Hope you are still doing alright and that you are still at work putting those good old K Rations up. Don't know what we boys would do without them. So keep up the good work, and we will do our best to have this thing over in a hurry.

"Did want to write before, but as you know we just don't have time, at times. Will answer your letter as soon as possible, that is, if you care to write. A letter from you, with a picture of yours enclosed, will be the thing I would want more than anything.

"I suppose you would like to know a lot of things of what is going on here. The only thing I can tell you is that we have Jerry on the run, and that I can't see how this can last much longer. . . .

"Here's hoping I hear from you very soon. So until then I will say 'So Long' for a while. Never say goodbye.

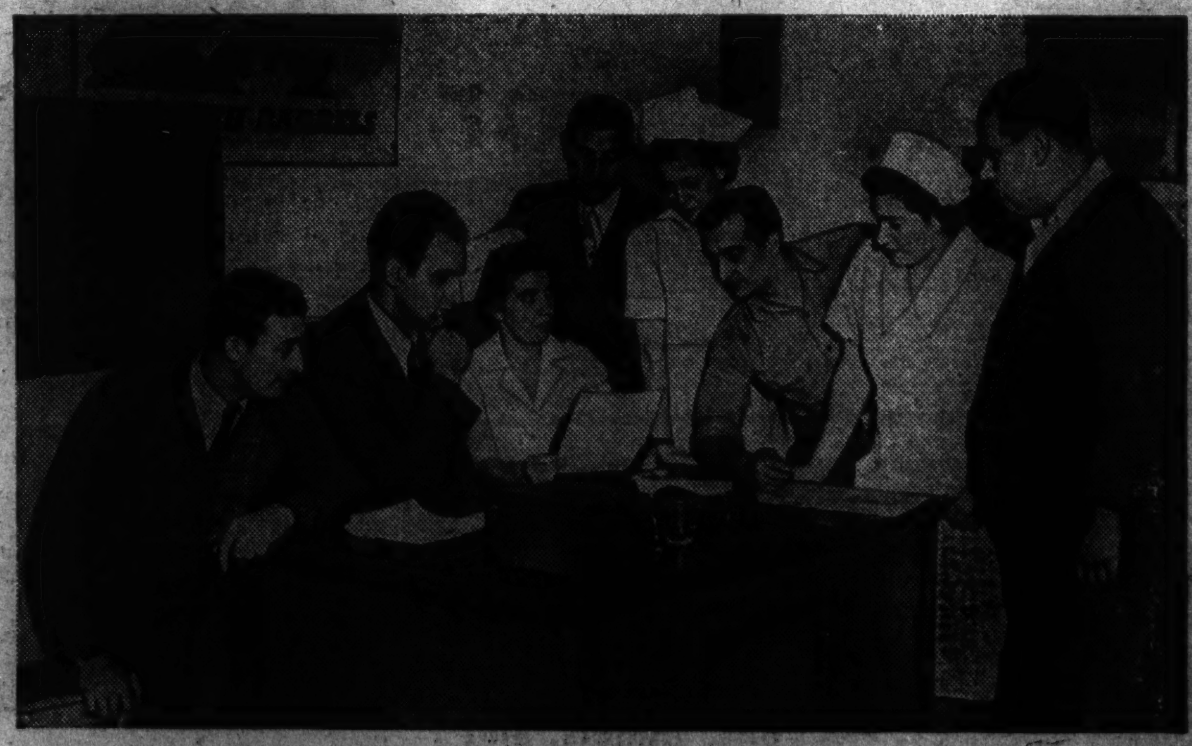
"Yours,
"MIKE"

Local 207 members have chalked up an outstanding record in blood donations. About 130 workers have already given blood, some as many as 3 and 4 times. Every day several workers go to the Red Cross, and the Company pays them for the time off.

More than 150 of the plant's 800 employees have gone into the Armed Forces, and several have already returned to their former jobs. As provided in the Union's contract, these veterans retain their seniority in the plant, plus extra seniority that accumulated while they were in the service.

Local 207 boasts that it has not had a strike since the Union was organized, 10 years ago. A 100% union shop was won with its 1939 contract. Wages, which were as low as 24c per hour 7 years ago, now run as high as $1.04 per hour. The lowest rate today is 65c per hour. Vacations were won for the workers for the first time under the Union's contract.

UCAPAWA NEWS is their guide to action. Here Shop Steward Helen Andricola, Business Agent Emmanuel Papas, Steward Josephine Frigenti and Financial Secy. Rose DeCrescenzo read about the Union's happenings in the News before a local meeting.



Greetings To Florida Workers: The leaders of Local 207 gather around at their Union hall in Brooklyn to check on the letter they sent to their fellow workers in the Hills Bros. plant in Florida, describing the great gains that the Brooklyn workers achieved through UCAPAWA. Left to right: Salvatore DeRosa, Vice-Pres.; Emmanuel Papas, Bus. Agent; Rose DeCrescenzo, Fin. Secy.; Patsy Merola, Shop Steward, Gingerbread Dept.; Helen Andricola, Shop Steward, Ration K Dept.; Joseph DeNicola, Shop Steward, Maintenance Dept.; Josephine Frigenti, Shop Steward, Fruit Bar Dept.; Ralph Guglielmo, plant guard.

• Mail Call •

I AM now in Racine, Wisconsin, still doing yeoman duties (office work) covering four stations in this area, writes Seaman 1/c Robert Wirsing, now in the Coast Guard. The work is interesting and keeps me pretty busy . . . just like pre-war days, when I was Secy.-Treas. of Local 68.

Wirsing

Have been to the Dailey Pickle Co. plant a number of times since entering the service . . . and noticed an almost complete change of personnel, and a number of changes in machinery and production set-up.

I never read any news of Local 68 in the NEWS, and wonder why there isn't an article now and then. Notes From the Locals is an interesting column and I enjoy reading of the events of the various other locals throughout the International.

I read quite frequently about getting more funds into the International treasury. Let's find some method other than raising the dues to do this. Couldn't there be a new organizational set-up, whereby we could reduce the number of vice-presidents, and set up regional directors and have them serve as members of the Executive Board. Then have the International reps in their respective areas serve directly under them. It would also be to a better advantage if the larger local unions would be made to have a business agent act as an International representative on cases in a certain area close to their locality.

Have more consolidation of locals throughout the country . . . to make less administrative work, and better active locals out of some of the smaller ones. . . .

Do not increase the dues above $1.00. The members cannot afford a hike in dues, not with the wages that are being paid in UCAPAWA industries. . . . Let's find some other means of increasing the funds in the treasury.

I urge the Convention Delegates to continue the "No Strike Pledge" and I believe that the UCAPAWA membership should be praised for its almost perfect record in sticking to this pledge in the past.

* * *

(Editor's note: We wish to thank Brother Wirsing for the many thoughtful ideas presented in his letter. Many of these suggestions will, no doubt, be discussed thoroughly at the Convention.)

I'M glad the Union is getting along okay, writes Sgt. Raymond Hakes, and am looking forward to the day when I can be back with Local 44 in Decatur. Keep things rolling.

Hakes

It is a pleasure to receive our Union paper and to read of the activities of our Union and the progress it is making, writes Pvt. Joseph Pumm.

I urge you to continue the fine work, and to keep building the Union. To my mind, the best safeguard of true democracy is in the trade union movement, in the organization of the working people.

Keep up the splendid work in behalf of the war effort. Together, on the fighting front and the home front, we shall smash fascism, and have a happier world.

I WISH I could be at the Convention, but I know that the Brothers and Sisters are more than accomplishing the job that we in the armed services temporarily left behind, which means so much to the future peace and security of us all, writes Int. Rep. Edwin McCrea, U. S. Navy, from a point of embarkation.

Congratulations on your part in the splendid election victories. Keep up the good work. By the time you receive this, I may be across.

A STRONG Union backed 100% by the members will make sure that we in the armed forces will have a better world to live in, better homes, etc., writes T/S Wm. Laws from New Guinea. Personally, I wouldn't belong to any other union than UCAPAWA.

I am a cook in an engineering aviation battalion. Sorry I'll miss the Convention, but I wish UCAPAWA the best of luck. Keep production rolling and we will keep the Japs running over on this side of the ocean.

NOTE: Many more letters from servicemen will be run in the post-convention issue.

Notes from LOCALS

Check-Off Won

19 Memphis, Tenn. — Compulsory check-off was won this week by Local 19 in a new contract with the Perkins Oil Company.

A Form 10 was signed in which one week's vacation would be given for one year's service and 2 weeks' vacation for two years' service. Wages comparable to the highest paid for compress work in the Memphis area have also been sent to the WLB.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are: Business Agent Joseph Hellinger, Alf Jones, John Hubbard, Horace Balfour.

Get Well, Jennie

55 Middletown, Ohio — Jennie Stiver, Local 55 News Reporter, has been ill in bed for several weeks. The members of Local 55 have not forgotten their loyal Jennie, but have been sending flowers, cards, fruit and many other things.

The News wishes Sister Stiver a speedy recovery.

Back Pay For Watchmen

74 Ellsworth, Mich. — Due to Union intervention, several hundred dollars was collected in back pay by the watchmen of Reid, Murdoch & Co.

A meeting between Union representatives and Company officials will be held to discuss the matter of incorporating the seasonal workers with Local 74.

By Carmen Crawford, Reporter

Akron Delegates

120 Akron, Ohio—Local 120 is sendir its full quota of delegates to the UCAPAWA Convention. Hugh Moneypenny, Kenneth D. Loy, Norma J. Billings and Joseph Schutt are the delegates chosen.

By Norman Billings, Reporter

Toledo Delegate

297 Toledo, Ohio—A Hallowe'en party held by Local 297 on the evening of Nov. 4 raised enough money to send a delegate to the UCAPAWA Fifth National Convention. Local President, Norton Ackerman, was chosen as the delegate and all of his expenses were covered, including pay for time lost from work.

By Dan Smith, Reporter

Missouri Sweeps Clean

349 Harviell, Mo. — It looks as though Missouri has scored another victory with a clean sweep for FDR in the State. At least, that was the way it looked when the latest reports showed that the only doubtful Democratic candidate, McKittrick, was leading Republican O'Donnell in the race for the Senate. Absentee soldier ballots gave McKittrick a spurt ahead.

Due to the untiring efforts of PAC, more Negroes voted the Democratic ticket than ever in the history of the State.

By Owen Whitfield, Int. Vice-Pres.

BEST WISHES for a SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION
LUMMIS PEANUT COMPANY
Makers of
KRISPY KRUNCH
148 No. Delaware Ave.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
Smash 'Em with the Sixth . . .
BUY MORE BONDS!

CONVENTION GREETINGS from
HABANELLA and
GARCIA GRANDE Cigars
BONDS Keep Bombs Falling!
Buy More War Bonds

Greetings from
LOCAL 638
LANCASTER, PA.

Greetings to the FIFTH CONVENTION of
United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America
from
BROWN PACKING CO.
FRESH FROZEN FRUITS
Howard & Christian Sts.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Convention Greetings
United Cigar & Tobacco Workers Union
Local 647
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y.
LET'S GO FORWARD TO VICTORY!

Convention Greetings
My Thinking... My Money... My Time will stay in this war to the finish
—Every American
Buy More War Bonds
Pennstate Cigar Corp.
426 E. Allegheny Ave.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MAKE EVERY PAY DAY WAR BOND DAY
STOP SPENDING—SAVE DOLLARS

SAVE WASTE PAPER
FOR CONGRESS AND MEDICAL SUPPLY CONTAINERS
Call a Collector at EXchange 0000

Delegates to Fifth National Convention

Welcome to Philadelphia

LOCAL 186
UCAPAWA-CIO

Here Are Some of the original "grain-of-salters" who were determined to organize a union at Reynolds. Front row: (white sweater) June Taylor, Office Secy., and Frank Hargrove, (on her right) director of the drive. Standing directly behind them is Clara Hutcherson, Field Rep., and, in the center, Conrad Espe. Exec. Vice-Pres. of UCAPAWA. Third from the right in the front row is Donald Henderson, Pres. of UCAPAWA.

In the Groove: Discussing the gains made by Local 22 in recent months are (l. to r.) Velma Hopkins, Trustee; William DeBerry, International Representative; and Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent. Now that the Union is firmly established, they plan to go on to greater victories.

UCAPAWA Makes Good in Winston-Salem

The Story of Local 22

By Clara Hutcherson, Field Representative

"YOU'LL never organize Reynolds" was the cry when UCAPAWA first sent representatives to Winston-Salem in 1942. "Reynolds controls the town—lock, stock and barrel. Unions have tried to come here before, but they didn't try again. The Company fired a gang of workers back in 1928 for trying to get a Union." This same story was told in many different versions by the Reynolds workers.

There were some, however, who had more faith. They knew the struggle against the Reynolds millions would be a hard one but they also knew of the powerful reputation of the CIO. "There's one thing about the CIO, they stick up for the workers." That was the general opinion of the faithful few who knew that someday they would be organized.

The wealthy Reynolds Company, whose plants spread out over the business section of the Twin City, were clever, yet not so clever in keeping their 10,000 workers from organizing. They put a lot of faith in the old pat-on-the-back technique. Their aim was to make each worker feel that he was the most important worker in the plant. "If you have any personal problems that you can't solve, don't fail to come to us with them." This, the Personnel Department made a point of telling each employee. Some of the workers fell for this baloney. Others took it with a grain of salt.

IT was these grain-of-salters who were the first to realize that they must organize against this "not so clever" Company. They were tired of the Company pitting one group of workers against another group. They were tired of the personal favors for a few. They were tired of the poor working conditions, the poor sanitary conditions.

They knew, the few who had faith, that something could be done. And when UCAPAWA Representatives, Barney Henley, Harry Koger and Bill DeBerry called meetings, they were the first to respond.

The meetings were held secretly in the workers' homes, in the basement of a sympathetic church. The usual 8 or 10 workers attended—Clark Sheppard, Eddie Gallimore, Theodosia Simpson, Caroline Clark, Crawford Shelton, Marion Lyde, Robert Washington, Dinah Blanding, Ann and Bill Anderson and Leanna Gallimore.

These small secretive meetings went on for months. The meetings didn't grow much larger; the workers were afraid, but never did they give up hope. Leaflets were distributed but for fear of the foremen and company stooges seeing their interest, many of the workers passed them up. Things began to look dark—even the organizers began to wonder if it could be done. The members were increasing so slowly—200 out of a possible 10,000. What an uphill climb!

BUT the fateful day came. On June 17, 1943, one of the workers at No. 65 took sick and went to the nurse to ask to go home. The nurse refused him and sent him back on the floor to work. He only worked a few minutes before he dropped dead.

The news spread like wildfire. The workers became enraged. To express their outrage at such inhuman treatment of their fellow-worker, they walked off the job. One plant followed another until the whole works was forced to close down. The first stoppage in the history of the Reynolds Tobacco Company.

Thousands of workers out on the streets. They needed leadership and guidance. They knew something could be done, so they naturally looked to the Union to help them. The Union workers got in touch with UCAPAWA Representatives Frank Hargrove and Bill DeBerry and a meeting was arranged. The few that had constituted a Union meeting suddenly turned into a huge mass meeting. Hundreds of workers joined that day and the next two or three days, thousands joined. They were no longer afraid—they had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

A committee was set up to call on Management to discuss bad working conditions existing in the plants. They promised Management they would go back to work if the Company straightened out some of the grievances. Management promised they would and the workers went back to work. The Union asked for a U. S. Conciliator and bad working conditions and wages were discussed, but because the Union was petitioning the NLRB for an election, the Company terminated discussions.

AT last the great day came, August 3 and 4. The Reynolds workers had been exposed to more Union education than they had ever had in their lives, so when they marched to the voting booths they had their minds made up.

The vote was counted in the evening in the presence of hundreds of excited workers. The total number of UCAPAWA votes was better than 2 to 1. In the prefabrication unit, the CIO won by 97%. In the manufacturing departments, no group won a majority. So the AFL (which was also on the ballot) immediately protested the election in the manufacturing unit. The Company protested the election in the prefabricating unit.

In view of the over-all majority, who desired the CIO to represent them, we protested the entire election and asked the NLRB to certify us in one over-all bargaining unit. An NLRB hearing was held and UCAPAWA went all out for a one-unit election and got it.

The AFL withdrew from the contest and the no-union group appeared in another coat—the R. J. Reynolds Employees' Association, Inc. and demanded a place on the ballot. The Union, realizing the few followers the Company-union Employees' Association had, consented to giving them a square on the ballot.

The second election was set for Nov. 11 and 12. The Employees' Assn. protested the election on this date on the basis that they were not allowed enough time to campaign. The date had been set and the NLRB was going through with it. On the eve of the election, the Employees' Assn. secured an injunction against the Labor Board, restraining them from holding the scheduled election. The county sheriff went into the hotel room of the NLRB Field Examiners and took over the ballots, etc. It was a merry fight from here on. First into one court, the another—four courts in one month!

THE second election was finally held Dec. 17 and 18. The outcome was as the Union expected—an overwhelming majority for UCAPAWA — 6,822 votes out of 10,522.

The workers were jubiliant over their victory. Celebrations were held in workers' homes throughout the community. They felt that their waiting, the tax on their patience, had not been in vain. At last they had gotten a Union!

A Contract Negotiations Committee was set up with representatives from the various operations totaling approximately 40 workers. The negotiations were long and drawn out. The Company stalled whenever they could. Finally on April 13, negotiations ended, the contract was signed to be effective April 26. The contract provided for seniority, grievance machinery, arbitration, etc. Wages, vacations, Union maintenance and check-off and top seniority for Shop Stewards went to the WLB as a dispute case. Two days after the contract became effective, these disputes were certified to the Board.

TIME out to tell about the Leaf House Companies. During the period when we were jumping from court to court in trying to get an election at Reynolds, three leaf houses, Export Leaf, Winston Leaf, and Piedmont Leaf Tobacco Companies became organized over night, so to speak. Actually, it was done so quickly and completely, it's hard to remember the details. Everything was popping at the same time.

Many workers throughout the city, including the leaf house workers, attended the UCAPAWA mass meetings and everybody got the CIO bug. This was what they wanted and they didn't lose any time in getting it. The Union immediately petitioned the NLRB at the leaf houses, and within a few weeks, one election followed another. First, at Winston Leaf the Union won by 97%. Then came Piedmont Leaf, the Union winning by 95%. And at Export Leaf, the Union came out with 99½% victory.

Committees were set up to negotiate contracts. Export Leaf agreed to a Union shop. Management said "Union shops are more workable." The question of wage increases went to the WLB as a dispute case. Substantial increases in wages were made retroactive.

THE Reynolds WLB case came up for a panel hearing in June. The Company saved their big anti-union guns for this occasion. "We'll give 'em the works," they thought. In trying to prove that UCAPAWA is an irresponsible Union, the Company's attorney read 24 affidavits, alleging intimidations, threats, coercion, etc., by CIO members. The Union proved these affidavits to be lies and distortions.

To complicate matters, the Employees Assn. popped up with a new trick, the frame-up of one of UCAPAWA's organizers, Bill DeBerry.

The panel hearing lasted for three days with additional data on wages to be mailed in.

The WLB directive order came through in October. The order gave the Union union maintenance, mandatory check-off, substantial wage increases, improved vacations with pay, and top seniority for 100 Shop Stewards. This order, topped with an order from the NLRB for the Company to cease and desist from participation in the R. J. Reynolds Employees Assn. was a two-in-one victory for the Reynolds workers. "We've got these buckets (Company stooges) and it'll be easy now," Brother Clark Sheppard put it.

Local 22 has had a hard fight and a colorful history, but is now safely founded as a part of the community in Winston-Salem and is on the road to greater achievements.

FRANK GREEN
Chairman, Local 22

ELEANORE HOAGLAND
Educational Dir., Local 22

The People Of The South Voted For Democracy

By Reuel Stanfield, President, Local 15

THE people have spoken. With the firm unfettered will of free men, each made up his mind according to the light of his intelligence, and at the ballot boxes the millions of tiny voices blended into one gigantic shout of decision.

And we won. How could it be otherwise? For we ARE the people; would we decide against ourselves?

We won the assurance that man's liberation from the burden of endless drudgery, hunger and fear will continue apace in America, and in the world.

We said: "We hereby order our economic rights to be strengthened still further. We order more laws limiting the hours of industrial drudgery and the degree of poverty to which people may be subjected; more laws guaranteeing our right to organize and bargain for ourselves; more laws providing better education and greater abundance of jobs; more TVA's, more rural electrification, more social security; more government power to direct the activities of industry for the general welfare instead of private greed.

Congress Must Obey

"We order firm and intelligent world leadership. We order the committment of the United States without reservation to a powerful world organization with our Allies, strong enough to enforce democracy and [illegible], constructive peace."

Congress heard those instructions clearly. Let it obey or beware.

We in the South won, also. We won a victory over the foul doctrine of racism, the deadly poison that gnaws at the very roots of democracy.

For the first time since the Reconstruction, the question of democracy for the Negroes in the South was a direct issue in a Presidential election. We were overwhelmed by the most virulent campaign of Negro-baiting and race hate since the days of the dreadful Klan's terror and murder.

They Are Not Alone

Yet we triumphed. Over decades of prejudice and mountains of lies, we triumphed. To the world we said, "We will no longer tolerate at home an evil which we send our sons abroad to fight."

To the Man in the White House, and to the rest of the nation, we said, "Help us. Help us to cleanse ourselves of hate. Help us to make in the South a living reality of your program of justice and full citizenship for the Negro people. Help us to win full democracy and human rights on the job, in the community, and at the ballot boxes."

We voted against the old oppression and poverty. We voted for the Roosevelt program of full economic and political justice for white and Negro alike. We chose the decent, Christian and American way.

No plainer words could have been spoken. Throughout the South the wavering and the timid can listen to the voice of their conscience with a new confidence and courage, knowing that they are not alone; that the overwhelming portion of their fellow Southerners are with them.

HUMKO VICTORY: UCAPAWA won an NLRB election at the Humko plant in Memphis, 92 to 44 on Nov. 2, thus making the 23rd plant under contract to Local 19. Newly elected officers of the plant shown together with Local 19 officers: (seated from l. to r.) are Willie Marshall, Vice-Pres.; Joseph Hellinger, Bus. Agent of Local 19; Harrison Gryce, Pres.; Annie Lee, Rec. Secy. Standing (l. to r.): Simm Exen and Sally Orr, Grievance Com.; Alberta Goward, Fin. Secy.; Prince Jones, Grievance Com.; Wesley Rounds, Grievance Com.; and in the foreground: Jessie Harrison, Local 19 organizer.

The CIO in the South

By William DeBerry, International Representative

SINCE the days when Cotton was King, southern reactionaries have used white supremacy to keep the racial groups separate, to prevent attempts to organize for the common good, and to retard the progress of a free people. But the CIO is now helping to rescue the South from this economic bondage with the weapon of mass organization.

Take Memphis, Tenn., for example. It was here that I was born, and became familiar with police brutality and Simon Legree bosses.

Our bosses tried desperately to keep us apart. On my first visit to a union hall, I found I wasn't actually free; and so did other workers, both Negro and white. The terrorism was so great that we were afraid to sing very loud lest the police come and cart us all off to jail.

Negro-White Unity

Little by little our ranks began to swell. The white workers began to realize that they didn't hate us. They became conscious of the fact that it was the intention of the bosses that we should hate each other. This was the beginning of Negro and white unity in Memphis.

The testing period came when the Southern Branch of the Ford Motor Company workers were made welcome to our hall after a successful campaign in Detroit. There were a large number of whites who had never sat in an open meeting with Negroes, and they were irked at the many dark faces surrounding them. But here the policies of the CIO through its top-notch representatives came into action. Now everybody calls each other Brother and Sister, because they know they have mutual problems that can only be solved through understanding and better relations.

Look at the Record

Poor sharecroppers in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Southeast Missouri are still suffering from this evil of race supremacy. But, let us look at the record. Before UCAPAWA began its campaign, sharecroppers were robbed and cheated of their labor. They knew nothing of organization, and they were in terror of the riding bosses. UCAPAWA organized farmers as well as the city workers.

One of the important ways the CIO is gaining strength is in getting the workers to register and vote. The results can be seen in the last eelction where in Forsyth County, North Carolina, the CIO got more workers on the registration books, (Negroes and whites), than at any time in the history of the county.

Throughout the South we are organizing for a better future, and the CIO is leading the way.

The World-famous

DIAMOND

Shelled

WALNUTS

are packed exclusively by

UCAPAWA

Local No. 3

Compliments

of

McMillen Feed Mills

Division of

CENTRAL SOYA CO., Inc.

DECATUR, IND.

Food Rates As Top Industry On West Coast

By Dixie Tiller, International Vice-President

NUMBER one industry in the California-Arizona area is still agriculture and allied industries, even though there has been an expansion of war industries throughout the area. The industries under the jurisdiction of UCAPAWA have the greater number of people employed and give a greater return to growers, shippers and canners.

For years UCAPAWA has waged a campaign to abolish the speed-up and at the same time increase production in the largest lettuce and carrot bowl in the country, Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister, and we won. Incentive plans are now in effect in every district, and production has increased almost 100% with the same number of workers employed as before.

Union Here To Stay

Only recently have the Growers-Shippers recognized the fact that the Union is here to stay and that the war effort could best be served through cooperation. Yet, in spite of the ill-feeling that existed on the part of their employers, Local 78 finally convinced the workers that the war effort would be hindered by the 'quickie' strikes that they resorted to in pre-war days. The production record of Local 78 will stand up well against any other Union in the nation.

In order to strengthen the cooperation begun between employer and labor, the Union has invited the various employers' associations to a joint meeting to consider post-war problems and the unifying of many agreements now existing.

These agreements cover cotton compresses, walnuts, tortillas, tamales, sardines, chilis and fruits and vegetables. UCAPAWA has agreements with five canneries in California, one of which, Hunt Bros., is the largest fruit and vegetable cannery on the Pacific Coast, and one of them, Van Camp Sea Food, is the largest tuna cannery in the world. The tuna cannery agreement is one of the best in the International. It has resulted in greatly increased production with approximately 60% of the number of workers formerly employed.

Recently, Huston & Baetz, a dehydration plant, was brought under contract. Plans are under way for organizing a Heinz cannery to be built shortly in the Tracy district.

Post-War Program

Organization of unorganized workers has slowed down somewhat in recent months because the terrific problems involved in negotiating more than 250 agreements covering seasonal crops has made the problem of personnel for organizing a very difficult one.

The annual convention of Local 78 will take place in January, 1945. At this time, plans will be made for the following year to bring in all the workers in the fresh fruit and vegetable industry in the California-Arizona region.

A proposal is being planned to submit to the National Convention on setting up a Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Council to work with other CIO International Unions and the AFL. We think that a Cannery Council with delegates from various Regional Councils should also be set up.

Post-war planning, both economic and political, is our number one program. Not enough has been done along these lines. Food, fibre and tobacco are important industries and will survive long after many of the wartime industries have converted. We must be prepared locally and nationally to meet the problems that face us.

Chicken of the Sea

WHITE STAR

☆

Packed by

VAN CAMP SEA FOOD CO. Inc.

TERMINAL ISLAND CALIF.

Greetings

from

Local 155

OSKALOOSA, IOWA

GREETINGS

to the

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

BLUE RIVER FARMS

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Shelbyville, Ind.

Let's All Take This Pledge

YOUR PERSONAL GOAL —AT LEAST ONE EXTRA $100 BOND!

GREETINGS

to the

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

of the

United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America

from the

GREATER HARTFORD INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL, CIO

Greetings

to the

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

from

MEMPHIS COMPRESS & STORAGE CO.

Packing Sheds Go Union On The Rio Grande

By Otis Nation, International Vice-President

LOCATED on the Rio Grande River, the boundary between Mexico and the U. S., is the Rio Grande Valley. Southernmost point in the U. S., the valley runs from the Gulf of Mexico up the river for 65 miles.

The soil is very rich in the valley because the river has overflowed and left rich deposits of topsoil for centuries. Here is where Local 35 has its home, in Hidalgo County, "the richest agricultural county in America." The chief harvest, citrus and vegetables, begins around October first and ends around July first.

UCAPAWA chartered the Texas Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union in December, 1943. Since then, the little people in the valley, Mexican and Anglo-American workers, have hope. They have learned that there is a law to protect their rights to organize, and they are taking advantage of these rights.

Not One Strike

Five Labor Board elections have been held and won. Twelve closed shop tomato contracts were signed guaranteeing a minimum wage of 65c an hour. Three out of four NLRB cases of unfair labor practices have been won by Local 35. Nineteen workers have collected (or will soon collect) a total of $4,000 in back wages for unfair discharges.

One of the world's largest tomato shippers, Trulyn Shippers, has a contract with Local 35. Five other large shippers of citrus fruits and vegetables will be under contract soon, and not one strike has taken place since Local 35 was first chartered.

At every turn in the road, the Local was opposed by the Valley Shippers Association, but we won each time. That's because Local 35 is a strong local, with constructive discussion by the membership on all issues, and an Executive Board that has its fingers on the pulse of the workers.

The Local Political Action Committee was responsible for rolling up a large vote for Roosevelt. Local PAC leaders were Paul Scheer, Opal Sperlock, Frances O'Quinn, Mary Hilton, Mrs. Ferguson, Joe Irvin and a host of others.

It is impossible to give credit to all the members who have contributed so much to the building of this common peoples' fortress, but the most outstanding leaders were Ila Fitzpatrick, Pres.; Buck Kizzia, Secy.-Treas.; Sally Wilson, Recording Secy.; and Vice-Presidents and Board Members Haskell and Nettie Williams, Jesse and Bernice Hughes, Bert Johnson, Clara Wilson, Ben Wilson, Paul Scheer, C. W. McGilvray, Harvey Anderson and Monty Lequeux.

Florida Local Fights Against Open-Shoppers

By Anne Mathews, International Representative

FLORIDA, the nation's southernmost peninsula, is a land of contrasts and contradictions.

Here is the home of the U. S. Senator Pepper, sponsor of a 65c minimum wage bill. And here, too, lives the sponsor of Florida's anti-labor "right to work" law, Attorney General J. Tom Watson.

This anti-union measure squeezed through by a bare majority, and is now the means of maintaining open-shops in Florida

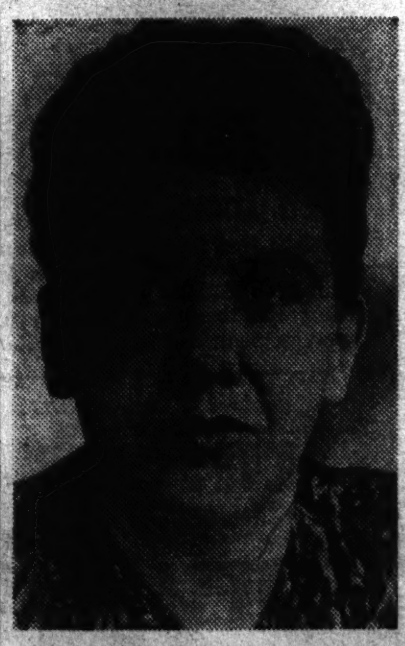
Following right on the heels of this vicious law was a Lee County Farm Bureau resolution to cut the wages of unorganized agricultural workers in the area.

However, a ray of light in the darkness is the power of the WLB and the NLRB to set aside conflicting State law where a labor dispute is involved because they get their authority from the President's wartime powers.

This safeguard for labor was proved when the Eppinger & Russell Company refused to bargain with UCAPAWA on the grounds that Representative Anne Mathews did not have a "license" required by State law. The NLRB saw to it that the Company did bargain with UCAPAWA.

Sunshine Not Enough

Florida men called up by Selective Service are rejected at the rate of 53 out of every hundred because of poor health. Which proves that Florida's sunshine alone cannot do the job of building healthy citizens. Organization of labor must continue in order to provide the good working conditions that make for good health.



An NLRB election is scheduled for UCAPAWA at Hills Bros. Company in Bartow. This company, employing 500 to 600 workers at peak production, cans and packs citrus juices, vegetables, gingerbread mix, and GI fruit bars. The New York branch of the Company has been under contract to Local 207 for seven years.

Local 9, fresh fruit and vegetable local, recently won an NLRB reinstatement order for three of its members who were discharged by a Dade Country tomato packer, John R. Campbell. An election is being scheduled by the NLRB for the DiGiorgio Fruit Corp. Among other companies under contract to Local 9 is Myles Green Company, tomato packer on the Florida east coast.

England Solves Her Food Problem

IN Britain, two problems faced the nation in connection with producing and distributing enough food for all the people during wartime. First of all, with so many good muscular arms drafted into the army, they faced a manpower shortage. Resulting from this manpower shortage and the added needs of the men at the front was the problem of producing enough food to meet the increased demand.

To solve these problems, thorough-going changes had to be made all the way from the manner in which the food was produced to the way it was consumed.

While we in the United States were still trying to curb rising prices and black markets, Britain succeeded in developing better eating habits among her citizens than ever before. Food distribution and production is planned on the basis of the needs of the people instead of on how much they can pay. Through the aid of American lend-lease, women, children and heavy workers get all the food they require.

Help on Farms

During wartime the farm shortage is relieved with the help of travelling crop corps made up of older boys and girls, older women and others who are not in the factories or at the front. While vegetables and milk go to city markets from the farms, townsfolk repay the favor by helping with the planting, weeding, harvesting and other farm work. Government teaches farmers the best methods of production through local agricultural research stations.

The National Union of Agricultural Workers, finding the British wartime system of planning for food production most satisfactory, has recommended a long term land food policy under national ownership of the land and government supervision of production.

Rationing, introduced in Britain long before we adopted it, has been the means of making sure that everyone has enough to eat. Price control is rigidly enforced. Black market operations are treated as crimes and severely punished.

Mass Feeding Plan

Rationing, overtime, night shifts, housewives at work in war industries, evacuations and bombings have made it difficult for workers to get enough nourishment, so Britain developed a mass feeding plan. Professional nutritionists who know how to get the best value out of food supervise the feeding of the nation.

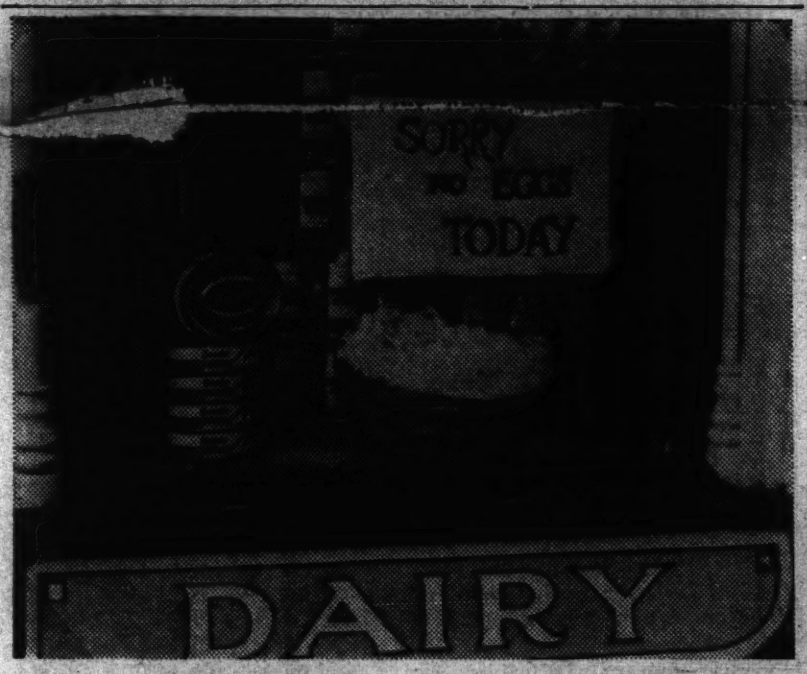
It all started when London was blitzed and many homes destroyed. Bombed out families had to eat, so mobile canteens and kitchens were set up to feed whole communities. This method was found successful, not only in feeding numbers of people at low cost, but it freed housewives from their ties to the kitchen stove to work in the war factories where they are badly needed.

Factory cafeterias were enlarged and operated under government supervision on a full-time basis. Here, whole families can eat three meals a day. Or, if they prefer to eat at home, Mother can stop in after her day's work and pick up a hot, nutritious meal to take home for the family.

Now, half a million children all over Britain are served dinners at school. Two hundred new school canteens open up every month. Schools are kept open during vacations to feed children while their mothers work. More children than ever in Britain's history are free from undernourishment and the diseases (such as rickets) that result from it.

The British Trades Union Congress, representing all labor unions in England, met recently to call a world labor conference for February 6. Here many problems affecting the future peace will be thrashed out. Not the least of these will be how to distribute food more equally over the world so that never again will we have food rotting in one section of the world—while people starve in another.

A Typical British Housewife tells how she manages to feed her family and what she thinks of the food problem. She is shown in the British film "World of Plenty," which discusses one of the great world problems about which common people as well as statesmen must be compelled to think . . . food.



Even Though Eggs may be as scarce as the proverbial "hen's teeth," British expert nutritionists find plenty of substitutes to keep Britain's working men and women in fine condition for the war effort. Rationing, overtime, night shifts, housewives at work in war industries, evacuations and bombings have made it difficult for workers to get enough nourishment, so Britain developed a mass feeding plan.

Oiling the Machinery of war, this British Labor-Management Committee is discussing a means of improving on the production of a piece of equipment used by the army. Committees like these are found in many factories in Britain. Sometimes called Joint Production Committees, they are made up of representatives of labor and management in the plant. Settling grievances is just as important a part of their job as the plant production problems and help to speed the day of victory.

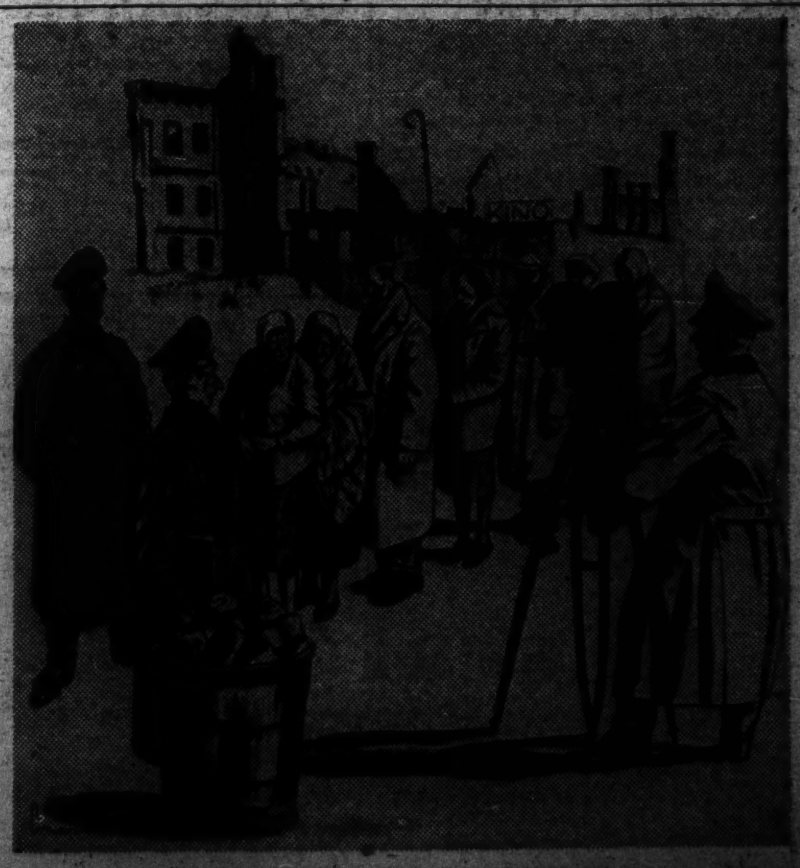
Hunger Stalks Thru Liberated Europe

AS Allied armies liberate German-occupied territory on their march to Berlin, they find that the most serious problem they must face is the starving condition of the liberated peoples and rebuilding the countries raped by the Nazis.

Well-known to everyone is the wastefulness and destructiveness of the Nazis as they entered one country after another. Food supplies were removed to feed Germany, land reduced to waste. Every day thousands of people were taken from their homes and families and herded off to some unknown destination to work as slaves for the Fuehrer, leaving farm lands without the manpower to keep them in condition. The destruction of agricultural tools, transportation systems, and machinery by air raids and patriotic sabotage, helped to lay waste the great production capacities of Europe. About 130 million Europeans are dependent upon the rest of the world for relief, according to the United Nations Information Office.

The biggest job in European relief is getting Europe's own agriculture producing again. To help set Europe on her feet again, representatives of the United Nations set up the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. UNRRA will provide only the bare necessities of life. It is designed to get the liberated lands into production as quickly as possible so that they can meet their own requirements. Ships carrying bread to Europe will also carry seeds to grow wheat on liberated soil. They will carry fertilizer, insecticides, tools and machinery.

Before the war, Europe did not produce all her own food, but she did produce close to 90% of it. But, in the face of the widespread devastation the Nazis left behind, no nation possesses enough strength to face the huge problems of reconstruction which lie ahead. Therefore, the United Nations are joined in the common effort of feeding, clothing and housing the liberated peoples of the world.



From a great factory in the U. S. A. . .

To a great factory in the U. S. S. R.

Theodosia Sends A Letter—

Last June, Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent of Local 22 in Winston-Salem, N. C., wrote a letter of friendship to be sent to a worker in a food or tobacco plant in Russia. The News sent this letter to the Moscow Labor Press service:

DEAR Friend: It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to write to people in far away lands. There are many things of interest happening here in America, but first let me introduce myself.

I am a Negro girl, 5 ft. 5½ inches tall, weighing 120 lbs., dark hair and brown eyes. I am 25 years old and was born and reared in Winston-Salem.

I am the oldest of five girls, and, because of my family's financial status, I had to stop school just as I entered College. I graduated from Atkins High School here at the age of 15 and attended Winston-Salem Teachers' College one session. Then I stopped to go to work at the Reynolds Tobacco Company as a Stemming Machine Operator in May, 1936.

My Job

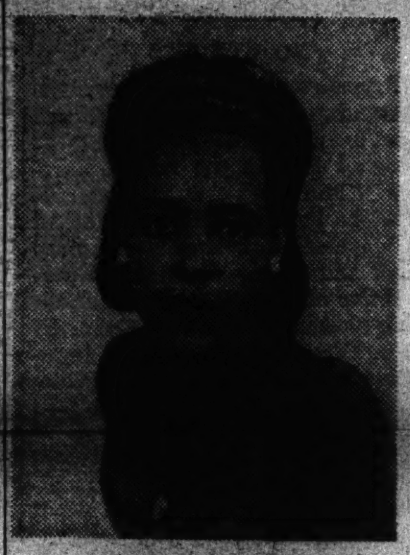
I imagine you are familiar with the processing of tobacco, but I'll give you just a brief sketch of the steps leading up to my job.

After the Company buys the tobacco from the markets, it is redried and stored in storage houses for a period of 2 to 5 years. After this period the tobacco is brought to the Stemmeries. It is tied in bundles.

There are 66 machines in the Stemming Machine Department and 3 women are assigned to each machine. The tobacco is placed on the machines in boxes. The first person is called the untier and her job is to untie the bundles and place them very straight on a small belt for the next girl who is known as the spreader. This person spreads the tobacco very thin and evenly under what we call "butters." This part of the machine cleans the big end of the stem of the leaves and the belt carries it on to the operator, the third girl at the machine, whose job it is to feed the tobacco very thin into the machine (this was my job).

The filler (the leaf of tobacco minus the stem) and the stems fall separately downstairs to another department to get any stems that the machine failed to get out of the leaf. The tobacco goes to the cigarette department, where it is further processed and blended with other tobaccos and is made into the cigarette.

In August, 1943, I became Field Representative for UCAPAWA-CIO. And after a long campaign, we won the right to bargain for Reynolds' workers in December, 1943.



THEODOSIA SIMPSON

Our Union is doing all in its power to support our Commander-in-Chief's Win the War program. We are selling bonds and stamps, and our members contributed $739.64 to the Red Cross last week. Some of us volunteered to help with the OPA price check and the point rationing program. We all feel that being organized we can accomplish much more than we can as individual workers.

We are all praying for the Almighty to help the Allies and give them power and strength to win this war and the peace.

You can tell your fellow workers that the American laborers are with you 100%.

With the greatest of hopes for a victory in 1944, I am

Fraternally yours,

(signed) Theodosia Simpson

And Proskovia Answers—

In November came the following reply from Proskovia Polyakova, a leading worker in a Moscow vitamin-processing plant:

IT was through the central committee of our trade union that Theodosia Simpson's letter came into my hands. I liked the initiative she showed, so I made up my mind to reply to this friend whom I've never met but who is working in the same branch of industry as I am and is a citizen of that great country with whom we are allied in our struggle against the German invaders.

Firstly, I want to introduce myself. I am a Russian woman of forty-five and live and work in Moscow. I have two children, a daughter and an adopted son.

I adopted this little orphan July 21, 1943. His father was killed at the front. His mother died of starvation during the terrible fascist blockade of that glorious city, Leningrad.

The child had gone through a great deal affecting his health. I did my utmost to build him up, and now he is a fine healthy boy, full of life and energy. He's in fifth grade at school.

War brought sorrow and trouble upon me as it did upon others; my parents perished in Leningrad in 1942. I wanted to go to the front to avenge myself on the German fascists for the disasters and grief brought upon our people and all freedom-loving peoples of the world. But I was no longer young and I had two children to look after, so I couldn't take direct part in fighting. I had to choose another way. I decided to work with redoubled energy in industry and thus help to supply our great Red Army.

Vitamins For Army

I work very hard at the second Moscow vitamin works. Not long ago I received a government award for my services—badge of merit.

I was an ordinary worker and I've been promoted to be shop forewoman. Our shop fills orders for the front in first rate style. We are turning out vitamin sweets and tablets made from wildrose lips and synthetic vitamins.

All our workwomen are so proud that the things we make help to strengthen the men at the front. We bear this in mind and it makes us work better.

Now on the eve of the twenty-seventh anniversary of the Great October Revolution, many of my fellow workers and I have taken Socialist pledges to do three daily work quotas. We are keeping our word.

I am a member of a trade union to which all workers in the cannery, fruit, vegetable and vitamin industry belong. If you are interested I'll tell you more details about our union's work in my next letter.

Hourly, Hitlerite Germany's defeat is approaching and there is good news from the front every day now. The powerful drives that our gallant Red Army and the Allies' heroic armies are making will accomplish the Fascists' defeat in their lair. The hour of victory is very close at hand.

Splendid Surprise

During the patriotic war a fine tradition has grown up in my country—sending gifts to the front for holidays. I take active part in this work too.

Men at the front send letters thanking our people for their thoughts. Though they've good uniforms and all they need, they say our presents give them many pleasant moments because they are proof of the touching care and attention to their wants.

But I must hurry up and tell you of a splendid surprise I've just had: A few days ago I got a letter from my husband—the first for many days. He has been at the front since the first day of war. I've lived through a great deal and worried and thought a great deal at all this long silence, and now quite unexpectedly, I've heard from him and I know he is alive and well.

I wish you every success in your work, and happiness in your personal life. Give my greetings and regards to your fellow workers and assure them that the working women of the Soviet Union will do all in their power to win victory of the United Nations over our common foe.

(signed) Praskovia Polyakova.

Greetings to the

FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

from

LOCAL 80—UCAPAWA

CAMDEN, N.J.

CIO Convention Charts All-Out Victory Program

Chicago, Ill.—One of the most enthusiastic CIO conventions on record meet at the Stevens Hotel here Nov. 20-24 to hail the past year's achievements of the CIO and lay down the program for the crucial months ahead. "This is a CIO victory convention," Pres. Philip Murray smilingly told the 600 delegates in his hard-hitting opening address. "Nov. 7 was a great day, a people's day, another kind of labor day. We set the forces of reaction back on their heels."

Voting to continue the CIO Political Action Committee in its present form, the delegates unanimously agreed with Murray that, "The future security of the nation is a political question, to be decided by political means. The common people do not propose to leave this all-important issue in the hands of individuals who care less for their country than for partisan advantage, as happened after World War I."

After a wild 25-minute demonstration by the delegates, PAC Chairman Sidney Hillman urged participation by labor in party primaries "so we'll not face a choice between two evils."

"We'll neither capture nor be captured by the Democratic or any other party," Hillman said, in pronouncing PAC's independence. "Likewise we reject all proposals for wasting efforts in infantile activities for a third party which would cut us off from large, important progressive groups with which we have been so successfully allied."

WAGE FIGHT

The convention vigorously condemned the action of the National War Labor Board in refusing to submit a recommendation to the President of the U. S. calling for a revision of the Little Steel formula to bring wages in realistic alignment with the sharp rise in the cost of living. The delegates urged that the War Labor Board be authorized to raise the standard minimum wage to 65c per hour and to adopt a firm policy to prohibi any wage cuts during the reconversion period.

An urgent plea from General Eisenhower for greater production of military supplies was brought to the convention by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell. The need is great now, he said, because the Army is ahead of schedule on the Western front.

Complimenting labor on the job it has done, Somervell said Hollywood had no adjectives stupendous to describe it.

In answer to Somervell's appeal for 100,000 workers in essential plants at once, Murray declared the international union officers in the industries affected have given their attention in the past week to the critical situation and orders have gone out for immediate cooperation with the Army, War Production Board and management to rush needed supplies.

NO STRIKES

By solemn standing vote, the convention delegates reaffirmed labor's no-strike pledge. "Our contract is with the Armed Services," Murray declared, "and it must be honored and maintained."

Cooperation between organized labor and veterans behind the perspective of 60 million postwar jobs was pledged to the convention by Omar B. Ketchum, national legislative representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and CIO Pres. Murray.

The convention went on record urging a postwar plan of 60 million jobs and prosperity for all; it emphasized the continued need for organizing the unorganized; urged complete international labor unity; condemned anti-Semitism and discrimination of any kind; pledged cooperation with the farmers of the nation for the solution of economic problems; and expanded its program of security for veterans returning to their jobs.

CIO Resolutions

These are some of the resolutions passed by the Seventh Constitutional Convention of the CIO:

POLITICAL ACTION: Continuation of PAC in its present form to direct the work of political education and political action, and to service the political activities of the CIO in the field.

NO-STRIKE PLEDGE: Reaffirmation of the pledge in the interests of the war effort. All disputes between labor and management to be settled through peaceful means. Organized labor must mobilize the people on the legislative and political fronts to protect their interests.

NATIONAL WAGE POLICY: Condemnation of the National War Labor Board for refusing to recommend to the President a revision of the Little Steel formula to make wages show a relationship to cost of living. Requests WLB to raise minimum wage to 65c. Urges WLB not to permit wage cuts during [illegible]sion.

60 MILLION JOBS & PROSPERITY FOR ALL: Urges unity and cooperation between labor, industry and farmer to increase purchasing power and secure the benefits of the Economic Bill of Rights. Adequate and planned reconversion to continue full employment. Endorses Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks Conferences for the expansion of world trade.

VETERANS: Cumulative seniority for newly hired vets should be in all bargaining agreements. Waiving of initiation fees. Urges establishment of Veterans' Bureaus in all affiliated CIO unions. CIO will continue to cooperate with veterans' organizations.

ORGANIZING: Continuation of the fundamental task of organizing the unorganized.

INTERNATIONAL LABOR UNITY: Endorses the World Labor Conference and supports the formation of a powerful international labor party to include all the unions of free countries.

VS. ANTI-SEMITISM: Condemns the use of anti-semitism as a Hitler weapon to disrupt the war effort. Condemns Republican Party for using this tactic during the Presidential Election Campaign.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION: Reaffirms opposition to discrimination against the Negro people or the people of any other minority. Urges that the Fair Employment Practices Committee be made permanent. Supports national unity.

FARMERS: Extends tribute to farmers for their role in the production of food for victory. Full employment for industrial workers means a market for farm products. Supports price guarantees to farmers at levels which assure them a fair return for their produce. Urge greater protection for family owned and operated farm which is the backbone of the nation's agriculture.

CIO PRESIDENT PHILIP MURRAY

• Convention Sidelights •

After an uproarious 45-minute demonstration, the 7th Annual CIO Convention unanimously re-elected Pres. Philip Murray for a fifth term, along with Secy.-Treas. James B. Carey and the nine CIO vice-presidents: Pres. R. J. Thomas, United Auto Workers; Pres. Albert J. Fitzgerald, United Electrical Workers; Vice Pres. Frank Rosenblum, Amalgamated Clothing Workers; Pres. John Green, Marine & Shipbuilding Workers; CIO Director of Organization, Allan S. Haywood; Pres. Emil Rieve, Textile Workers; Pres. Joseph Curran, Nat'l Maritime Union; Pres. Sherman Dalrymple, Rubber Workers; Pres. Reid Robinson, Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers. One representative apiece from forty unions were elected to the International Executive Board.

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Pres. Roosevelt, in a telegram, praised labor's part in winning the war, while Mrs. Roosevelt personally congratulated the CIO "on the work you have done as citizens." She asked the unionists to keep watch on their representatives and continue "the wonderful organization you have for citizenship."

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Warning labor to keep watch on Washington every minute for the next two years, Vice-President Henry Wallace appealed for 60 million votes in the 1946 election to assure 60 million jobs. "A vote for every job and a job for every voter," he cried.

"The fall of '45 and the spring of '46 will be decisive in the battle against depression and idleness," Wallace warned. "World peace cannot be permanent if unemployment plagues postwar America," he said. "American unemployed means world unemployed and world unemployed means violence, no matter what kind of peace organization we may have."

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Greetings from the Soviet, Chinese, Latin American and Canadian labor movements were heard by the delegates.

Pres. Toledano of the Confederation of Latin American Workers asked for continued united labor efforts to crush Nazism and fascism.

Vassili Kutznetov of the Soviet Central Council of Trade Unions urged CIO help in "organization of a militant world trade union federation to promote the early defeat of our common enemy, and establish a lasting peace."

Pres. Chu Hsueh-fan of the Chinese Assn. of Labor thanked the CIO for its help in strengthening the free democratic labor movements of the world.

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Bishop Bernard J. Sheil hailed labor as the one group in America with the answer to the common man's demand for a better life and a shield against blind reaction.

The answer to fascism is more democracy, the Catholic dignitary said, urging that labor continue "mixing in politics."

Shiel hailed the CIO fight against racial discrimination. He said labor's appeal for upward revision of the Little Steel formula, the guaranteed annual wage, and union-management cooperation, were just demands.

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Resolutions dealing with the extension of mother and child health programs and the strengthening of child labor laws met with unanimous approval from the delegates.

AT THE CIO CONVENTION: UCAPAWA's delegates are greeted by CIO President Philip Murray at the first session of the CIO's Seventh National Convention at the Hotel Stevens in Chicago. Left to right: UCAPAWA Secy-Treas. Harold J. Lane; Int. Vice-Pres. Otis Nation; Int. Vice-Pres. Robert Clark; Field Rep. Alice Powell (who represented the Vigo County CIO Council); CIO Pres. Murray; Int. Vice-Pres. Luisa Moreno; Int. Vice-Pres. Armando Ramirez; and Pres. Donald Henderson. After the CIO Convention, the UCAPAWA delegates rushed on to Philadelphia to attend the UCAPAWA Executive Board meeting and Fifth National Convention. (Photo by Al Puhn)